



STATEMENT

by H.E Anouparb Vongnorkeo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
at the “High Level Segment - General Exchange of View”

14 September 2026

The 3rd Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
14-18 September 2026, Vientiane Capital

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**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is a great honour for the Lao PDR to host and preside over the Third Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (3RC-CCM). For the Lao PDR, our commitment to this Convention is deeply rooted since its early inception.

More than five decades after the conflict ended, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and a great portion of this being cluster submunitions, continues to threaten lives, restrict access to land and impede socio-economic development, particularly in rural and remote communities.

Hosting this Review Conference in Vientiane therefore carries particular significance, as it represents a **“homecoming”** of the Convention. It reminds us that the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions do not end when conflicts cease. For us they have continued and **they will stay for generations** as many of you could see long standing impacts during the field visit yesterday.

Excellencies,

Sixteen years since the Convention entered into force, significant progress has been achieved in strengthening the norm against cluster munitions and advancing clearance, risk education and victim assistance. These achievements demonstrate what sustained cooperation among States Parties, affected communities, international organisations, civil society and partners can deliver.

On our part, the Lao PDR has integrated UXO actions into our national priorities: First, the Safe Path Forward I & II (2003–2020): These initial comprehensive plans, stretching 25 years back, guided clearance operations, risk education, and victim assistance, aligning with national socio-economic goals and international conventions from 2008 onwards, including the CCM.

Our third National Strategy: Safe Path Forward III (2021-2030), and our national Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 18): entitled “Lives Safe from UXO”, reflect

the ongoing needs. For us, addressing UXO contamination is both a humanitarian responsibility and an essential condition for sustainable development.

Yet much remains to be done. Unexploded submunitions and other UXO continues to endanger communities, and the scale and complexity of contamination will require sustained technical capacity, predictable resources and a continued and long-term commitment.

An increasingly constraint global funding environment presents challenge to this. For affected States, reduced and unpredictable resources can mean fewer areas surveyed and cleared, less risk education and insufficient assistance reaching survivors and affected communities.

We are also concerned by developments that risks weakening the international humanitarian disarmament architecture. At a time of heightened insecurity in many parts of the world, continuing conflicts and humanitarian crises, the principles and objectives of the Convention remain as relevant as ever and must be preserved and strengthened.

The Lao PDR therefore calls for renewed international solidarity and stronger international cooperation and assistance, including through sustained funding and financing, technical assistance and capacity-building. National commitment and international partnership must go hand in hand if we are to accelerate implementation of the CCM.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

As host and Presidency, the Lao PDR sees this Review Conference as an important opportunity to take stock of progress, address remaining challenges and agree on a clear direction for the years ahead.

The **Vientiane Capital Action Plan 2027-2031** and the **Political Declaration** will be important outcomes of this process providing a strong framework to guide our collective efforts and translate our shared commitment into concrete actions for the implementation for the next five years.

The Lao PDR stands ready to work closely with all States Parties, signatories, non-States Parties, international organisations, particularly the United Nations, civil

society, survivors and affected communities to ensure a successful and meaningful Review Conference.

Let us use this opportunity to renew our commitments, strengthen our cooperation, and accelerate progress towards a world free from the threat of cluster munitions.

Thank you.