



The Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

14-18 September 2026, Vientiane, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic

Statement by Sri Lanka – (14 – 15 September 2026)

Agenda Item 8: High-Level Segment - General Exchange of Views.

Reaffirming the determination to put an end for all time to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate **H.E. Mr. Thongsavan PHOMVIHANE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic** on assuming the Presidency of the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Sri Lanka assures you of its fullest support and cooperation as we deliberate on our collective commitment to advance the humanitarian objectives of this vital Convention.

Sri Lanka also welcomes the three States Parties **Nigeria** (ratification, 2023), **South Sudan** (accession, 2023), and **Vanuatu** (accession, 2025), that joined the Convention since the Second Review Conference reflecting their commitment in humanitarian disarmament.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka's decision to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2018 reflects our firm, enduring commitment to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and global disarmament. Sri Lanka's dedication is demonstrated through active leadership within the Convention by assuming the Presidency of the Ninth Meeting of States Parties (9MSP) in 2019 soon after the accession to the Convention and by active contribution to the Bureau as Vice President in the four consecutive years. In these roles, Sri Lanka consistently championed universalization and fostering multilateral dialogue to the global implementation and promotion of the Convention.

Sri Lanka maintains that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is a landmark milestone in international humanitarian law and global disarmament, given its holistic framework for addressing the human suffering caused by these weapons. Our participation today underscores our steadfast commitment to eliminate the threat of cluster munitions worldwide.

By design, cluster munitions scatter submunitions in a wide area of land, making it impossible to separate military targets from surrounding civilian areas resulting a direct breach of the core IHL principle of 'distinction'. Furthermore, their wide footprint and high failure rates cause severe, disproportionate civilian harm, violating the IHL principle of 'proportionality'. The Convention's legally binding prohibitions on the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of cluster munitions are therefore essential to upholding international law. Additionally, cluster munitions remain a persistent post-conflict hazard. Unexploded submunitions contaminate the land for decades, threatening civilian infrastructure and endangering vulnerable populations, including children, women, and farmers long after hostilities end.

It is also vital to advance victim assistance, accelerate stockpile destruction, clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants in affected areas, promote risk reduction education, especially among the youth, and enhance international cooperation and assistance.

We believe that integrating cluster munitions victims into broader national disability assistance framework, health, and social welfare architectures, in a survivor-centric approach and their inclusive socio-economic reintegration will be important to affected States.

Mr. President,

We convene at a complex juncture in global security landscape. Recent conflict developments worldwide have witnessed the risk of the use, production, and transfer of cluster munitions. The continued deployment of these indiscriminate weapons poses severe threats to civilian populations, exacerbates humanitarian crises, and undermines decades of progress achieved in multilateral arms control and humanitarian disarmament.

Sri Lanka unequivocally condemns any use of cluster munitions by any actor under any circumstances. The erosion of international norms cannot be tolerated. We call upon all States, particularly those possessing large stockpiles, to cease the production and transfer of these weapons and commit to their total elimination.

Mr. President,

This Third Review Conference serves as an indispensable opportunity to review our achievements, confront emerging challenges, and set a practical way forward for the next five years. Sri Lanka welcomes the core outcome documents before us:

- Sri Lanka views the Vientiane Capital Action Plan (VCAP) 2027–2031 as a forward-looking roadmap that builds upon constructively on the Lausanne Action Plan. We particularly welcome its increased emphasis on integrating environmental impact and climate risk assessment across clearance, survey, and stockpile destruction activities, as well as its strong alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the UN Agendas on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS).
- While supporting quantitative targets in the Action Plan, we re-emphasize the importance of practical, standardized methodologies for measuring progress such as assessing behavioral change in risk education. Moreover, affected states with limited administrative capacity must be supported through simplified reporting pathways and enhanced international technical cooperation.
- We also welcome the focus of the outcome documents toward compliance maintenance, managing newly discovered stockpiles, and intensifying efforts for universalization.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka remains firmly committed to working alongside the Presidency, States Parties, international organizations, and civil society organizations to ensure the robust implementation of the outcome documents adopted at this landmark conference.

Let us remain steadfast in our collective efforts to end the suffering caused by cluster munitions and build a safer and more secure world for future generations.

Thank you, Mr. President.