

Cluster Munitions Convention
Third Review Conference
14.-18.9.2026

Item 15 – Closure of the Third Review Conference
Statement by Austria

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Mr. President,

Let me start by thanking you and your team for the dedication and skill you have shown during your presidency of the Third Review Conference, and to the people and the government of the Lao PDR for hosting us in Vientiane this week with generous hospitality. Special thanks go to the teams of the ISU and UNODA as well as all delegations, who worked hard to make this conference a success.

We are very honored by the trust put in us, the Republic of Austria, by the community of States Parties of this convention.

My government has made a very conscious decision in deciding to pursue the role of President of the Fourteenth Meeting of State Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions: In a world that suffers from increasing uncertainty and instability, a staunch position in favor of human security, the protection of civilians and international law, including humanitarian law is more important than ever before.

Austria has been and continues to be a firm supporter of the CCM, which has saved countless lives and reduced the threat of cluster munitions for civilians worldwide. In its 15 years of existence, the CCM has proven to be one of the most effective instruments of humanitarian disarmament. Great accomplishments have been achieved in the collective effort to prevent or curb the impact of cluster munitions, including in the country of our host, LAO PDR.

Succeeding a successful Review Conference, we therefore aim to take the first set of concrete steps towards the implementation of the Vientiane Capital Action Plan during our presidency. The VCAP provides us with ample guidance for the next five years on the measures that are essential for achieving the goals of the convention and for making sure that our work remains effective in addressing the challenges of today's world. We derive from it three main lessons that will guide our work in the coming year:

First, our chief objective must be to uphold and strengthen the prohibition norm against cluster munitions. Strict adherence to our obligations is the pathway to saving lives, clearing land, and handing it back for use, with the aim of rehabilitating affected communities, guaranteeing the

human rights of survivors, and ensuring their human dignity. The norm against cluster munitions strengthens our collective security, a world without cluster munitions is a safer world.

Second, the convention's universalization deserves our continued and reinforced attention. Times of uncertainty are an argument for more international humanitarian law and humanitarian disarmament and for better protection of people, not for less. This means that communication with states not yet party to the convention must be maintained, with a clear focus on the very real and practical benefits of adherence.

And finally, the participation of survivors and their representative organizations is key to assuring that our work continues to be guided by the real needs of affected populations and by the real challenges on the ground. In this regard, we recognize the special role played by the ICRC, International Coalition against Cluster Munitions and many other stakeholders at this Review Conference in reminding us of the human face of our Convention.

Let me conclude by saying that I believe that the work under the CCM is more important now than ever, and that I am certain that we can meet the challenges of our times successfully together.

I am very honored to take on this demanding task, and I look forward to cooperating with all delegations in taking this work forward to the Fourteenth Meeting of State Parties.

I thank you.