



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)
September 2026
General Exchange of Views
Australia

As delivered

President,

Allow me to start by congratulating the Lao PDR on your appointment as President of this third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We thank the Lao PDR for the considerable preparations in the lead up to the Conference, for hosting us in Vientiane and for bringing these important discussions to the Indo-Pacific region.

Australia recognises the significance of Vientiane in the history of the Convention with the first meeting of States Parties held in this very city back in 2010. Laos was among the early leaders working to bring this Convention into force and it is fitting that we should also review progress of the Convention here.

Some of the most contaminated States in the world can be found in this region, the Indo-Pacific, whether from mines, cluster munitions or explosive remnants of war. These remnants can cause harm to life and limb, and impact the realization of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

President,

Australia is fully committed to the Convention. We discourage States from the use, development, production or acquisition, stockpiling, retention, and the direct or indirect transfer of cluster munitions to anyone, including those not party to the CCM, as well as non-State actors. We remain steadfast in our determination to promote the humanitarian objectives of the Convention. We support the focus of the Political Declaration submitted by the Presidency and reaffirm our commitment to achieving a world free of cluster munitions.

Australia welcomes positive progress towards the objectives of the Convention since the last Review Conference, including the destruction by States Parties of nearly 1.5 million cluster munitions and 179 million submunitions. We are pleased that all 41 States Parties with stockpile destruction obligations have completed destruction and declared compliance with Article 3 of the Convention.

President,

Since the first meeting of States Parties here in Vientiane in 2010, the number of States Parties has nearly tripled – from 40 to 112. Since Australia ratified the convention in 2012, we have played our part to help universalise and strengthen implementation of the Convention. We contribute to the CCM Implementation Support Unit and to the CCM Sponsorship Program. We support universalisation workshops in this region. In this regard, we would like to again congratulate Vanuatu as the newest States Party to the Convention. Australia continues to work with Pacific Island partners to clear Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in our region, including through our partnership with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and

through the Australian-led Operation Render Safe, Australia's enduring commitment to remove World-War Two-era ERW in Pacific Island Countries. Most recently, Operation Render Safe 2026 disposed of over 2200 munitions across East New Britain in Papua New Guinea.

Particular attention to risk education is needed for these communities — especially children, who continue to be disproportionately affected by UXO.

President,

Factors such as gender and age influence the likelihood of becoming a victim of cluster munitions. They impact an individual's access to medical care and long-term reintegration support, and shape the necessary risk reduction measures.

For these reasons, the gendered impacts of cluster munitions and other explosive ordnance must be actively considered, and gender-responsive approaches must be pursued.

Such approaches enhance the effectiveness of mine action by ensuring that the distinct needs, risks, and roles of women, men, boys, girls, and persons with disabilities are fully considered. We will support positive gender and diversity text in the proposed outcome documents of this Review Conference.

President,

We would like to acknowledge the tireless work of all CCM Coordinators in advancing the Convention. Australia has been pleased to fill the role of transparency coordinator for three successive terms. In that time, we have sought to improve transparency reporting outcomes not just across the Convention but across conventional arms control instruments more broadly.

Transparency and the open exchange of information are critical to achieving the Convention's aims.

President,

Australia commends the dedication and courage of mine action partners and operators globally, particularly those at the frontline of efforts to clear contaminated areas, destroy stockpiles, and provide risk education and victim assistance.

We look forward to working with all assembled at this Review Conference to deliver positive outcomes that advance the objectives of the Convention into the future.

Thank you.