

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CUBA AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS.
14–18 September 2026, Vientiane, Laos.**

His Excellency Mr. Thongsavan Phomvihane, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

Distinguished Heads of Delegation:

Excellencies:

On behalf of my country, I extend our gratitude to the Lao authorities for the warm welcome extended to the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We are pleased to hold this Third Review Conference of the Convention in Laos, a country that has suffered the devastating impact of cluster munitions and contamination from explosive remnants of war, and has demonstrated steadfast commitment to the clearance, and removal of millions of such remnants, as well as to risk education and to victim assistance

We extend our appreciation to the members of the Coordinating Committee, the staff of the Implementation Support Unit and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for their valuable support during the preparations for this meeting.

Mr. President,

We find ourselves in a complex international context, characterized by flagrant and repeated violations of International Law; attempts to impose peace through force, promoted by the government of the United States; and the proliferation of wars.

To this is added the disproportionate acceleration of the arms race, including the growth of the arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and the development of sophisticated emerging technologies for waging war, whose harmful and indiscriminate effects are disproportionately exacerbated.

Today, the United States itself, which tops the list of global military expenditure, tries to depict our country as an "unusual and extraordinary threat" to its national security. This is an absurd pretext that its current government has used to reinforce the blockade against Cuba to unprecedented levels and to impose an inhumane energy siege, the effects of which are equivalent to a naval blockade.

These actions, combined with the application of secondary sanctions and systematic threats of aggression, seek to promote internal instability in an attempt to justify a direct military aggression.

Cuba is a nation of peace, committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and

International Law. This is demonstrated by our long-standing position in favor of general and complete disarmament.

With regard to this Convention, Cuba's position is clear: the use of cluster munitions, by any actor and under any circumstances, is unacceptable. We strongly advocate for the total prohibition of these weapons, which are incompatible with the norms of International Humanitarian Law, due to the high number of civilian casualties they cause and their harmful and indiscriminate effects.

Since becoming a State Party in 2016, we have strictly and rigorously complied with all the provisions of the Convention, including the destruction of all our declared stockpiles of cluster munitions, before the deadlines [set](#) for our country.

Mr. President,

In addition to their humanitarian consequences, cluster munitions negatively impact the economic development of countries by hindering the recovery of productive land and the reconstruction of infrastructure.

International cooperation and assistance are essential to achieving the Convention's goals and to contribute to assistance for victims. These actions should be carried out without undue conditions or restrictions,

ensuring equal access for all States, without discrimination and taking into account the specific needs of the requesting countries.

We reiterate our interest in promoting an open dialogue among the States Parties, with the aim of finding practical and effective solutions to the limitations and ambiguities that, in our view, persist in several provisions of the Convention and may give rise to divergent interpretations that affect its uniform and effective application.

As States Parties, we must direct our efforts towards the total elimination of these weapons and avoid setbacks that would erode or condition the implementation and universalization of this norm.

We are confident that this Conference will allow us to advance with determination towards that urgent and noble goal.

Thank you very much.