



IRELAND

Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

Third Review Conference (3RC)

14-18 September 2026

Vientiane, Lao PDR

General Statement

Delivered By: Ambassador Deirdre Ní Fhallúin

President,

Ireland aligns with the statement that will be delivered on behalf of the European Union and I deliver the following remarks in a national capacity.

I thank the Lao PDR Presidency for your leadership of the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and assure you of Ireland's full support.

President,

Ireland expresses its unwavering and strong commitment to the Convention and its goals. Since entering into force, the Convention has established itself as a key instrument for the protection of civilians and foundational component of the international disarmament framework. Upholding and strengthening compliance with IHL is essential to minimise the number of future victims of cluster munitions. Through our collective action, we have made significant progress in enhancing the norm against cluster munitions and in enabling land clearance, victim assistance and survivor engagement, benefitting affected communities across the globe.

Since the last Review Conference, we have welcomed three new States Parties: Nigeria, South Sudan, and the Republic of Vanuatu. As we advance our common goal of a world free of cluster munitions, we particularly welcome that during this last review cycle we have seen completion of the destruction of 100% of States Parties' cluster munitions stockpiles. States Parties have destroyed 1.49 million cluster munitions and 179 million submunitions over the lifetime of the Convention. Throughout this process we have been guided by able presidencies, co-ordinators, and by the first Vientiane Action Plan, Dubrovnik and the Lausanne Action Plans. These are commendable, life-saving accomplishments worth celebrating and we must build on them.

President,

We also recognise that the Convention has faced notable challenges since the last Review Conference, including the concerning withdrawal of a State Party and the documented use of cluster munitions by non-States Parties in conflicts, including in Myanmar and in Syria, and due to Russia's continuing illegal war of aggression in Ukraine. Further, there has been reported and alleged use in Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.

Ireland is deeply concerned that 2025 saw the highest number of people killed and injured by cluster munitions since reporting began in 2010, according to data collected by the Cluster Munitions Monitor. Over 87% of casualties, according to the Monitor, were civilians, underscoring the continuing threat that these weapons present to civilian populations, including children. The need to universalise the Convention and its life-saving norm remains urgent. Ireland reiterates that cluster munitions are by their nature indiscriminate, and we condemn all use of these prohibited weapons in all circumstances.

President,

A new Action Plan and Political Declaration should provide a clear and concise foundation from which to advance our work. As we adopt the Vientiane Capital Action Plan, the Vientiane Political Declaration and make substantive decisions, it is crucial that we embed our efforts within a unified approach informed by the humanitarian goals of the Convention to safeguard development, peace, and security.

The identification of cross-cutting elements will significantly strengthen the coherence and consistency of the Action Plan and serve as a central touchstone for the Convention's working groups. Ireland welcomes gender mainstreaming as well as age, disability, literacy, language, and ethnicity perspectives among these cross-cutting elements. Failure to adopt an inclusive approach in the Vientiane Action Plan, would risk entrenching and exacerbating existing inequalities, which contribute to the varied impacts suffered by marginalised groups.

We see value in seeking synergies in the implementation of the Action Plan with the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant humanitarian disarmament instruments, as well as the Women, Peace and Security agenda and the Children in Armed Conflict agenda.

President,

Ireland recognises the devastating effects for the lives of civilians around the world from unexploded ordnance and we remain firmly committed to its clearance. Since 2006, we have

provided over €70 million across 20 countries for humanitarian mine action, clearance, risk education, capacity building, and victim assistance. Ireland has proudly supported efforts to clear mines, explosive remnants of war and cluster munition remnants across Southeast Asia since 1998. Here in Laos, Ireland has supported the UXO clearance sector for twenty years through partnerships with UNDP Laos, the National Regulatory Authority for the Mine Action Sector, the HALO Trust and the Cooperative Orthotic & Prosthetic Enterprise known as COPE.

In supporting these efforts, we are not only reducing the risks posed to civilians but creating opportunities for economic development, including agriculture, services, education and employment, ultimately supporting the furthering of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We wish to acknowledge the steadfast work of partners across the mine action sector including international organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, relevant UN agencies, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and civil society organisations, but also, and particularly, experts in the field - who are on the front line in ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention.

President,

The Convention was born out of a collective determination to address the devastating humanitarian consequences and unacceptable harm to civilians caused by cluster munitions. Progress towards universalisation, stockpile destruction, and the clearance of contaminated areas, as well as survivor engagement and victim assistance, are crucial to the success of the CCM and require continuous support.

Protecting civilians from the serious harm caused by cluster munitions drove the initial negotiation and adoption of the CCM. This should remain at the core of our deliberations at this Review Conference and be the basis on which we agree our new Action Plan.

Thank you