



Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
at the
Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
14-18 September 2026

Agenda Item 8 General exchange of views

as delivered by
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Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the role of President of the third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and for welcoming us to your beautiful country. Let me assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the European Union. Please allow me to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands fully endorses the norm established by the Convention and remains firmly committed to its complete and consistent implementation. Since the last Review Conference five years ago, notable progress was achieved in key areas such as stockpile destruction, clearance and victim assistance. We extend our sincere congratulations to those States Parties that have fulfilled their clearance obligations during this Review Period. These achievements save many lives and help communities to rebuild and thrive and are the tangible outcome of strong national commitment, as well as international and multilateral cooperation, in which civil society plays a vital role.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome South Sudan, Nigeria and the Republic of Vanuatu into our family of States Parties. Every new accession to the Convention further strengthens the global stance against weapons that invariably cause harm to civilians and strengthens our shared commitment to assistance for victims and affected communities.

Mr. President,

By prohibiting the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions, the Convention establishes clear obligations. Full compliance with these obligations is central to our shared interest to preserve the credibility and effectiveness of our collective commitment to the protection of civilians and in upholding International Humanitarian Law.

In that regard, we are deeply alarmed by the rise in civilian casualties and the severe humanitarian consequences stemming from the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions by States not party to the Convention, as well as by recent reports of their use on the territories of States Parties. We call on the States Parties concerned to take all necessary steps to investigate these allegations thoroughly and to report their findings to all States Parties in a timely, comprehensive and transparent manner.

Mr. President,

Looking ahead, the Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the newly drafted Vientiane Capital Action Plan. This Plan will be an important roadmap to guide States Parties in their implementation of the Convention and in shaping our collective priorities for the next five years. We see it as an opportunity to deepen our commitment: to accelerate clearance, to strengthen victim assistance and to ensure gender- and age-sensitive approaches. All of this should rest on a solid foundation of strong national ownership and adequate national capacity, reinforced by international cooperation and assistance, so that we achieve the timely and full implementation of the Convention.

The Netherlands stands ready to contribute actively to the implementation of the Vientiane Capital Action Plan, and to work with others to translate its commitments into measurable progress on the ground, in line with the letter and spirit of the Convention.

Thank you.