

Nonviolence International Southeast Asia
Statement on the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

General Exchange of Views
Agenda item 8 - Reaffirming the determination to end the
suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions

14 September 2026
Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement delivered by Fred Lubang, Regional Representative

President, Excellencies, colleagues, and friends,

Nonviolence International Southeast Asia (NISEA) thanks the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for hosting this Review Conference. This meeting in Vientiane conveys a clear message: across Lao PDR and Southeast Asia, communities still live with explosive remnants from wars planned far from their villages and fought before many of today's survivors were born.

This geography of harm reveals a wider structure, decisions are concentrated in powerful armed capitals but the burden is suffered by farmers, children, Indigenous Peoples, displaced families, and rural communities. Funding priorities are often set far from contaminated land. Technical knowledge is frequently treated as international expertise, while generations of local knowledge about land, risk, survival, and recovery are placed at the margins.

Humanitarian disarmament has achieved vital treaties, disposed of weapons, cleared land, and supported victims/survivors. Its humanitarian promise now requires a deeper transformation. NISEA proposes a decolonial mine action, by changing the relationships that reproduce harm, redistribution of power, rebalancing resources, and recognizing diverse knowledge.

Redistributing power means affected states, victims/survivors, and communities share authority over agendas, programmes, data, evaluation, and treaty leadership. Rebalancing resources means direct, predictable, and multi-year support reaches national and local institutions, with responsibility shared according to capacity and historical connection to harm. Recognizing diverse knowledge means lived experience, Indigenous understandings of land, feminist analysis, youth perspectives, and community practice shape the questions and solutions alongside technical expertise.

These pillars reinforce one another. Power without resources becomes symbolic. Resources without respect for local knowledge can reproduce dependency. Knowledge without authority can be heard and then ignored.

We welcome the draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan's attention to locally informed strategies, meaningful participation, inclusion, climate, and national capacity. The measure of these commitments should be visible shifts in who speaks, who decides, who controls resources, and whose knowledge counts the most.

At this difficult moment, every use of cluster munitions must be condemned consistently.

Withdrawals and geopolitical double standards must be resisted. Security built on weapons that keep killing civilians after conflict is fragile and inhumane.

A world free of cluster munitions requires the removal of weapons from arsenals and from the ground. It also requires the removal of inequality from the governance of humanitarian disarmament. Let Vientiane advance both tasks together.

Thank you.