



Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Vientiane, 14 – 18 September 2026

Agenda item 8. Reaffirming the determination to put an end for all time to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions

Statement by
Portugal

delivered by
H.E. Ambassador Luiz de Albuquerque Veloso

Mister President,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and to assure you of my delegation's full support. Portugal would also like to thank Lao PDR for the warm hospitality shown to delegations.

My delegation recognizes the thorough preparatory work undertaken by the Presidency in developing the Lausanne Action Plan Review Document, the Vientiane Capital Action Plan and the Vientiane Capital Declaration. We will work constructively on their finalisation and look forward to their adoption.

Mister President,

The CCM is a landmark achievement in humanitarian disarmament. On the occasion of its third review, Portugal reiterates its unwavering commitment to the Convention and to the goal stated in its preamble: “to put an end for all time to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions”.

In implementation of this principle, Portugal has never produced cluster munitions and does not possess any stocks thereof – all having been destroyed prior to the entry into force of the Convention. Furthermore, Portugal remains fully committed to its obligations under the Convention and to strengthening its contribution to its universalisation. We consider universal adherence to the Convention essential to reinforcing the international norm against the use of cluster munitions, consolidating the stigma associated with these disproportionate and unlawful weapons and encouraging States that remain outside the Convention to join it.

In this regard, we attach particular importance to continued international cooperation, including through strengthened coordination among donors, the sharing of good practices and the promotion of cooperation models adapted to the specific needs of affected States.

Portugal also supports strengthening synergies between the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other relevant humanitarian disarmament and human rights instruments such as the Ottawa Convention, as well as with other relevant fora addressing the protection of civilians, human rights, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Mister President,

The commitment shown by States Parties with obligations under Articles 3 and 4 has resulted in positive developments in stockpile destruction and in land clearance. In the 16 years since the CCM has entered into force, nearly 1.5 million cluster munitions have been destroyed and 18 countries have completed their clearing obligations. Portugal warmly congratulates all States Parties which have fulfilled their obligations during this cycle. We encourage remaining States Parties with pending obligations to make use of the available support mechanism to benefit from assistance and capacity building.

Recognizing the broad impact that cluster munitions have on survivors, their families and affected communities, the CCM establishes specific obligations on victim assistance. Effective implementation of the actions to be adopted in the Vientiane Capital Action Plan is essential to bring closer our political commitment and the practical fulfilment of the Convention's humanitarian goal through social and economic inclusion and the establishment of dedicated disability, health and social protection frameworks.

To this end, it is essential to recognise the diverse needs and experiences of survivors and communities. During the current implementation cycle, gender and diversity considerations have been a crosscutting aspect of the CCM and Portugal supports the reaffirmation and reinforcement of a mainstreamed gender approach through the Vientiane Capital Action Plan.

Mister President,

This Review Conference takes place in a challenging context. The confirmed use of cluster munitions in several conflicts is cause for deep concern: Portugal condemns their use by any actor.

In particular, we strongly condemn the continued and documented use of cluster munitions by Russia in its illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, producing unacceptable harm to civilians and contamination with long-term impact in Ukrainian social and economic recovery. We reiterate our condemnation of Russia's war

of aggression against Ukraine and restate our unwavering support to Ukraine in the path to a just and lasting peace.

Mister President,

To conclude, Portugal would like to express our profound recognition to all those who contribute daily, and often at great risk, to the implementation of the Convention – including United Nations entities, the International Committee of the Red Cross, mine action operators and civil society organisations.

Thank you.