



**Statement by  
the Republic of Slovenia  
at the  
Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munition – General  
Exchange of Views**

*Vientiane, 14–18 September 2026*

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Mr President,

Let me begin by thanking the Government of Lao PDR for its hospitality, as well as inclusive and transparent leadership throughout the preparatory process. The role of the Presidency is instrumental to the successful conclusion of this Review Conference.

This week provides us with an important opportunity to assess progress since the Second Review Conference and to take decisions on the practical implementation of the Convention as well as on the guidelines for the next five-year period under the Vientiane Capital Action Plan.

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

Mr President,

Slovenia strongly supports the humanitarian objectives of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We remain deeply concerned about the reported use of cluster munitions in different parts of the world and their devastating impact on civilian populations. Every new casualty affects not only an individual, but also their families and communities. Every new victim is one too many.

The international environment is rapidly changing. While our world is becoming increasingly interconnected, multipolar and technologically advanced, we are also witnessing the erosion of respect for international law, a growing number of armed conflicts, forced displacement and rising civilian casualties. In such an environment, the protection of established international norms and humanitarian principles is more important than ever.

Since its entry into force, the Convention has continued to attract States from all regions and with diverse political, economic and security perspectives. This demonstrates that the humanitarian principles at its core remain universally relevant. Slovenia hopes that this commitment will continue to grow, that more States will join the Convention, and that we will see no further withdrawals.

Mr President,

For Slovenia, effective implementation means, above all, improving the lives of people and communities affected by cluster munitions. We place particular emphasis on ensuring adequate resources for mine action, strengthening victim assistance, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration, and enhancing local and regional capacities.

In this regard, we are proud of the contribution of the International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security, ITF, headquartered in Slovenia. Through its work, ITF contributes to practical solutions on the ground and to building sustainable national capacities. We also believe that integrating mine action into broader development efforts can significantly increase its long-term socio-economic impact.

We see considerable value in strengthening synergies between the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other humanitarian disarmament instruments, in particular the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

We should also ensure that our implementation efforts take full account of gender, age and diversity. While direct victims are predominantly men and boys, the indirect impact on women can be profound, as they often become primary caregivers and bear additional economic burdens following injury or loss of family income. Risk education and other preventive measures therefore need to be age- and gender-sensitive and adapted to linguistic, cultural and other forms of diversity.

Mr President,

Slovenia is fully committed to improving the quality of life of affected people in a sustainable manner and to providing concrete assistance to survivors, affected families and communities, based on their rights and needs. In this context, we underline the important link with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It provides a broader framework for addressing the needs of survivors, ensuring their full participation and realization of their political, social and economic rights, and upholding their inherent dignity.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is ultimately about people. Our task is therefore not only to eliminate a weapon, but to ensure that those who have already suffered from its use can rebuild their lives, participate fully in their communities and look towards a safer and more dignified future.

Thank you, Mr President.