

Inter-Agency Group on Mine Action
Statement for the General Exchange of Views
Delivered by ASG Shoko Noda

Thank you, Mr. President.

Excellencies, distinguished delegate, and colleagues.

I have the honor of delivering this statement on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Mine Action.

I wish to begin by thanking the Lao PDR for its leadership and guidance over the past year, and for bringing us together here in Vientiane.

Mr. President, colleagues,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is a powerful expression of our shared determination to protect civilians, uphold international humanitarian law, and prevent the unacceptable human suffering caused by these horrendous and indiscriminate weapons.

We must all remain firmly committed to the humanitarian disarmament principles that underpin the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We cannot give way to arguments that would take us backward, nor lose sight of our promise to protect human life and dignity.

Since the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the United Nations has worked alongside States, international and regional organizations, civil society, and other partners to advance the Convention's goals and to support its full and effective implementation. We will continue these efforts with determination, guided by the conviction that a world free from cluster munitions is both possible and essential to building a safer world for all.

Mr. President, colleagues,

The Third Review Conference offers an important opportunity to renew our commitment, strengthen our engagement, and reaffirm the core principles of the Convention. At a time when the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict are felt with renewed urgency, these principles remain as relevant as ever.

Let us seize this opportunity to look ahead with ambition and purpose. The adoption of a strong, forward-looking and actionable Vientiane Capital Action Plan outcome is essential to providing clear strategic direction and a solid foundation for the Convention's effective implementation over the next five years. It will also send a clear message of our enduring commitment to the protection of civilians and to the humanitarian disarmament agenda more broadly.

Mr. President, dear colleagues,

The United Nations stands ready to continue working with you all towards our shared goal of a world free from cluster munitions.

I thank you.