

Third Review Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (3RC)
Universalisation
Australia
14 - 18 September 2026

President

Driven by the ongoing contamination of unexploded ordnance and its devastating effects on populations, including here in Lao PDR, universalisation remains a key objective for the CCM.

Australia became a State Party to the CCM in 2013, having been one of the first countries to sign the Convention when it opened for signature in 2008.

Since that time, Australia has been playing our part to help universalise and strengthen implementation of the Convention. We contribute to the CCM Implementation Support Unit and to the CCM Sponsorship Program.

Australia has consistently supported the annual UN General Assembly resolution on the CCM and its call to make further efforts in accelerating the universalisation process.

Australia is committed to doing our part to advance dialogue on the benefits of CCM membership among our Indo-Pacific neighbours and further afield.

This year, at the April ASEAN Regional Forum on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament co-chaired by Australia, the Philippines and New Zealand, we were pleased to invite Laos PDR to brief the ARF membership on the CCM.

We were pleased to support Laos PDR and participate in its successful hosting of a regional universalisation workshop in May. We are delighted that this workshop has played a role in the accession deceleration event that was held during the break. We look forward to welcoming Timor Leste to the Convention in due course.

In April last year, we were also pleased to co-host with Japan in Geneva an outreach event for Pacific Island Countries on conventional weapons conventions, including the CCM. And so, we very much welcomed the news just a few months later, in September, that Vanuatu had acceded to the CCM, becoming its 112th State Party.

We are heartened to see other representatives from our region here with us today, and look forward to continuing to promote the CCM to others in our bilateral engagements and in other fora.

Thank you, President.