

CMC Statement on Stockpile Destruction and Retention
Third Review Conference, Convention on Cluster Munitions
Vientiane Capital, 14-18 September 2026

Thank you, Mr. President.

We also thank the Coordinators for all their work over the past year and the States Parties that provided updates today.

Stockpile destruction is one of the Convention's clearest successes.

Since the Convention's adoption, States Parties have destroyed all their declared stockpiles, eliminating collectively 1.49 million cluster munitions containing 179 million submunitions. Nearly 180 million submunitions can never be used and won't cause new casualties and contamination. This demonstrates what firm deadlines, national implementation and international cooperation can achieve.

Maintaining this success requires continued vigilance.

As recognised in the draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan, States Parties must retain or be able to reactivate the capacity necessary to address previously unknown stockpiles or abandoned cluster munitions. Any newly discovered stocks must be reported without delay and destroyed as soon as possible.

The Monitor notes that Afghanistan and Iraq have previously discovered and destroyed cluster munitions in abandoned arms caches. The Republic of the Congo has stated that it possesses no stockpiles, but has not submitted its overdue initial Article 7 report to confirm this formally. Completion must be supported by full and timely transparency.

The draft Action Plan calls on new States Parties, and those discovering previously unknown stocks, to develop costed, time-bound destruction plans, report annually and make official declarations of compliance. The Cluster Muniton Coalition urges States Parties to implement these commitments and share their technical experience.

Mr. President,

Retention also requires scrutiny. Article 3 permits retention only for specified research, training and countermeasure purposes, and only in the minimum number absolutely necessary.

According to *Cluster Muniton Monitor 2026*, only six States Parties retain live cluster munitions for permitted purposes. Germany holds the largest number (50 cluster munitions and 3,150 submunitions). All retaining States Parties have reduced their holdings since their initial declarations, often substantially, while very few have replenished them.

These reductions raise questions about whether the original quantities were truly the minimum absolutely necessary. The experience of the overwhelming majority of States Parties shows that retaining live cluster munitions or live explosive submunitions is not essential.

The CMC urges every State Party retaining cluster munitions to review and justify its holdings annually, report fully on their use and destruction, and continue reducing them with a view to ending retention altogether. We welcome the draft Action Plan's requirement for annual review and reporting.

The responsibility does not end with States Parties. Two signatory states - Angola and the Central African Republic have reported they destroyed all their cluster munitions and no longer possessed stockpiles. These are positive examples for other signatories.

However, signatory Indonesia has acknowledged possessing approximately 150 old cluster bombs but has not provided a destruction plan. Another signatory - Cyprus has not publicly confirmed whether all its stockpiled cluster munitions have been destroyed. We call on both states to clarify their holdings through voluntary Article 7 reports, destroy any remaining stocks and ratify the Convention without delay.

Most states not party disclose little or nothing about their stockpiles. We call on them to cease production and acquisition, disclose and destroy their stocks, and join the Convention to prevent further harm.

The Cluster Munition Monitor notes that stockpiles are rarely held by non-state armed groups. However, Human Rights Watch's recent documentation of Hezbollah's use of cluster munitions in March 2006 indicates that Hezbollah possessed or had access to a stockpile. We urge Hezbollah, along all non-state armed groups, to disclose and immediately destroy any cluster munitions remaining under their control.

In closing, the destruction of all stockpiles held by State Parties is a landmark humanitarian achievement. We must now safeguard it and work to eliminate every remaining stockpile worldwide.

Thank you.