

CMC Statement on Survey and Clearance
Third Review Conference, Convention on Cluster Munitions
Vientiane Capital, 14-18 September 2026

Thank you, President.

As we conclude the Lausanne Action Plan period, the Cluster Munition Monitor shows important progress in understanding and addressing cluster munition contamination—but also a persistent gap between improved knowledge and completion of clearance obligations under Article 4.

Over the past five years, several affected States Parties strengthened their understanding of the location and extent of contamination through survey. In some cases, the recorded extent of contamination increased as survey identified previously unknown hazardous areas. This represents progress in understanding the problem, rather than necessarily an increase in contamination itself. States cannot plan effectively for completion without an accurate baseline. In 2025, States Parties released almost 114 km² of cluster munition contaminated land through survey and clearance and destroyed almost 65,000 cluster munition remnants. Yet progress remained highly uneven, with Lao PDR and Iraq accounting for the vast majority of land released by States Parties over the five-year review period, while several States Parties with much smaller remaining contamination, including Afghanistan and Chad, made little or no progress, largely due to lack of funding.

Most concerning is the slow pace of completion of clearance obligations under Article 4 and the continued reliance on deadline extensions. Since the Second Review Conference, only one State Party - Bosnia and Herzegovina - has declared completion. During this period, ten States Parties submitted a total of 14 extension requests. Currently, South Sudan is the only affected State Party still working towards its original Article 4 deadline (the Convention entered into force for it in February 2024).

Extensions exist for good reason. Conflict, insecurity, access constraints, environmental conditions, newly identified contamination and insufficient resources can all affect implementation. But extensions must remain the exception rather than become the normal way Article 4 is implemented.

The draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan provides an opportunity to change this trajectory. We welcome its commitments to establish accurate contamination baselines, develop evidence-based and costed national strategies and annual workplans, and ensure that extension requests are timely, ambitious, and realistic.

The Cluster Munition Coalition therefore calls on affected States Parties to:

- establish and regularly update accurate contamination baselines;
- translate these baselines into realistic, costed plans aimed at completion as soon as possible;
- prioritise survey and clearance according to humanitarian needs, community priorities and the expected benefits of land release;

- report comprehensively and transparently on progress, remaining contamination and challenges; and
- ensure that any extension request is timely, fully substantiated and supported by a credible, costed workplan with measurable milestones towards completion.

We also call on States Parties in a position to provide assistance to give sustained, predictable, multi-year support for survey and clearance. International assistance must be matched by strong national ownership, domestic resource mobilisation and prioritisation. States approaching completion should not be held back by funding gaps that targeted support could close.

The Lausanne Action Plan period has given us a better understanding of the remaining challenge. The task over the next five years under the Vientiane Capital Action Plan is to turn that knowledge into accelerated clearance, safer communities and prompt completion of Article 4 clearance obligations.

Thank you.