



STATEMENT

“Agenda item 9 (c) Clearance and Destruction of Cluster Munitions Remnants”

15 September 2026

The 3rd Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
14-18 September 2026, Vientiane Capital

(Please check against delivery)

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to **France and Mexico, the Coordinators on the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants**, for their dedicated work in advancing the implementation of Article 4 of the Convention.

For the Lao PDR, clearance of cluster munition remnants is both humanitarian imperative and a development priority. Contamination continues to endanger our people, restrict access to land and impeded the livelihoods and development of affected communities.

Excellencies,

Despite the immense scale of contamination, the Lao PDR continues to make steady progress in survey and clearance.

In 2025, more than **6,879 hectares of land (68 square kilometres)** were cleared across 15 provinces, and **73,682 UXO items** were destroyed, including **68,794 cluster munitions remnants**.

Progress has continued in 2026. During the first eight months of this year, more than **6,738 hectares of confirmed hazardous areas (67 square kilometres)** were identified, more than **4,285 hectares of land (42 square kilometres)** were cleared. During the same period, 49,472 UXO items were destroyed, including **31,813 cluster munition remnants**.¹

These achievements reflect the commitment of our government and national operators, together with the invaluable support of our international partners, for which we remain deeply grateful.

At the same time, we recognise that much remains to be done. UXO contamination continues to affect rural and remote communities, restrict productive use of land and put lives at risk.

¹ NRA IMSMA 04/09/2026

The Lao PDR remains firmly committed to making the greatest possible progress towards fulfilment its **obligations under Article 4 of the Convention during the current extension period through 2030.**

To support this effect, we have strengthened our national regulatory and operational framework through updated **National Mine Action Standards, aligned with relevant international standards, a prioritization matrix and an improved information-management system.** These measures will support safer, more transparent, and evidence-based operations and help ensure that clearance responds to the needs of affected communities.

Our efforts are guided by **Safe Path Forward III (2021-2030)** and our **national SDG 18: Lives Safe from UXO.** For the Lao PDR, UXO clearance is not only a humanitarian obligation; it is an essential investment in safer livelihoods, productive land and sustainable development.

Excellencies,

The scale of the remaining challenge ahead of us means that strong national ownership must be accompanied by sustained international partnership. Predictable and long-term financial and technical assistance is crucial to maintaining clearance capacity, strengthen national expertise and accelerate land release.

We therefore call upon States Parties and our international partners to continue supporting affected States in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention.

As the Lao PDR undertakes the responsibility of presiding over the Third Review Conference, we regard this role as both an honour and a solemn responsibility. We believe that the success of the Convention must ultimately be measured by the tangible difference it makes in the lives of people living in affected communities.

The Lao PDR deeply appreciates the solidarity and assistance extended to us over the years and stands ready to continue working closely with all partners to accelerate clearance and translate the commitment of the Convention into safer lives and communities on the ground.

Thank you.