

Statement by Mine Action Review
Agenda Item 9(c): Clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants
Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
14–18 September 2026

Thank you, Mr Chair.

A Review Conference provides an opportunity to celebrate achievements, but also to reflect honestly on the challenges that continue to hold back progress in implementing Article 4.

Global clearance has increased year on year since the Second Review Conference, reaching a new annual record of more than 259 square kilometres in 2025. States Parties cleared 113 square kilometres—44% of the global total and one third more than in 2024. This has helped prevent deaths and life-changing injuries, while enabling communities to use land safely and productively, free from the fear of cluster munition remnants.

These impressive headline figures, however, mask a much more uneven picture of progress towards fulfilling Article 4 obligations. Increased clearance has been driven significantly by some of the most heavily affected States Parties, principally Lao PDR, while too many States Parties with only a fraction of Lao PDR's contamination are making very little—or no—progress.

Only one affected State Party, Bosnia and Herzegovina, has fulfilled its Article 4 obligations since the Second Review Conference. Thirteen extension requests have been granted to 10 States Parties during this period, and Chad is now requesting its third extension. Chad, Chile and Somalia cleared no CMR-contaminated area in 2025, for a second or more consecutive year.

The reasons for this lack of progress are varied and are explored in Mine Action Review's Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants country reports. Some barriers, such as insecurity preventing access to contaminated areas, are largely outside the control of national mine action authorities. Others, however, can and must be addressed by affected States Parties and donors. Political will is required from both.

Afghanistan, Chad, Chile and Mauritania, for example, could fulfil their Article 4 obligations within a few years or less—and could potentially have done so by this Review Conference—with effective planning, efficient evidence-based land release and, critically, sufficient national and international funding.

At a time of considerable pressure on aid budgets, the international community must maintain adequate funding for cluster munition survey and clearance so that hard-won progress is not lost. At the same time, affected States Parties must clearly communicate their plans, priorities and financial requirements. Better planning and clearer articulation of funding needs can help donors understand what resources are required and what they can achieve.

As one practical step, Mine Action Review proposes the development of a working paper for presentation at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2027, containing model templates for annual and multi-year Article 4 survey and clearance work plans and budgets, for voluntary use by

affected States Parties. The purpose would not be to create additional reporting requirements, but to support stronger planning and resource mobilisation.

Mine Action Review, together with clearance operators, UN agencies, GICHD, and other expert organisations, could support development of the templates in consultation with affected States Parties and the Coordination Committee. They could also be used voluntarily to strengthen work plans and budgets in Article 4 extension requests and Article 7 transparency reports.

We hope States Parties will respond positively to this proposal, and we look forward to working with States Parties and partners to take it forward.

I thank you.