

**NPA Statement on Agenda item 9c) - Clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants
Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Vientiane, 14-18 September 2026**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Convention's purpose is clear - to rid the world of cluster munitions and to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by these indiscriminate weapons. Survey and clearance are critical to reaching this goal, and significant progress has indeed been achieved since the Convention entered into force and the First Meeting of States Parties here in Vientiane in 2010. This is the moment to reflect on and celebrate the remarkable impact this Convention has had around the world.

According to the latest report by Mine Action Review, global clearance continued to grow every year with another record of more than 259 square kilometers cleared in 2025. This represents a 14 percent increase compared to 2024. Affected States Parties cleared 44 percent of the global total and one third more than in 2024, with State Party Lao PDR clearing more contaminated land and destroying more cluster munition remnants than any other country. NPA has been operating in Lao PDR since 1997, and we can attest to the admirable progress made since. Strong national ownership is a key success factor for fulfilling clearance obligations and Lao PDR has been leading by example in this regard. National capacity building is a core part of NPA's programme and operational work, and we remain committed to supporting countries in strengthening their capacities needed for addressing the cluster munition contamination problem.

Let us also emphasize the concrete steps and key enablers that make this progress possible, and which are essential to delivering efficient and effective mine action efforts. These include, to name a few: strong national ownership; establishing an accurate understanding of contamination, and realistic yet ambitious completion plans; developing national standards and methodologies in line with IMAS; and establishing a robust information management system and transparent, accurate reporting. Incorporating gender and diversity and climate and environment considerations must be integrated into mine action responses, and innovation in mine action approaches is key to driving the sector forward.

The progress is not just numbers, it is tangible - with every square meter cleared, safe land is returned back to communities, the risk to civilians is reduced, and we move one step closer to a world free of cluster munition contamination.

At the same time, we must acknowledge that the implementation of Article 4 and work on survey and clearance is far from finished. Currently, 29 States and other areas are affected by cluster munition remnants. It is disappointing that since the Second Review Conference, only one affected States Party, Bosnia and Herzegovina, has fulfilled its Article 4 obligations. According to Mine Action

Review, only Germany is assessed to be on track to meet its Article 4 deadline in 2030, and, worryingly, new and increased contamination has been reported on the territory of certain States Parties. This only underscores the need for stronger coordination, sustained adequate funding, and unwavering political commitment to complete this work.

The new 5-year roadmap for the Convention's implementation - the Vientiane Capital Action Plan - will be adopted this week, and NPA is committed to supporting national authorities in actively implementing the Action Plan with the aim to enable effective, efficient, and inclusive land release operations and timely and meaningful implementation of Article 4 obligations.

Mr. President,

We cannot address clearance of cluster munitions without addressing their use and the devastating impacts they have on affected communities. Full compliance with Article 1 of the Convention and its preventative purpose is key to ensuring that no new areas are contaminated and no more lives are threatened by these indiscriminate weapons. Any use, by any actor and under any circumstances is unacceptable.

Thank you.