



STATEMENT

“Agenda item 9 (d) Risk Education”

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 would like to express our appreciation to **Lebanon**, the **Coordinator on Risk Education**, for its dedication in advancing the implementation of Article 4 of the Convention.

For the Lao PDR, **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education**, or **EORE**, remains an essential component of our efforts to protect communities from the continuing threat of unexploded ordnance.

Our efforts are guided by **our national strategy: Safe Path Forward III** and our national **SDG 18: Lives Safe from UXO**. We remain committed to ensuring that risk education is evidence-based, inclusive and responsive to the specific risks and needs of affected communities.

Excellencies,

In 2026, we continued to integrate EORE with survey and clearance operations, with particular attention to highly contaminated and hard-to-reach communities.

From January to August this year, EORE activities reached **582 villages and 252,576 people across 11 affected provinces**, half of them women and girls. Community-based activities and mass-media outreach have also help extend life-saving messages to populations in remote areas.

Excellencies,

To further strengthen these efforts, the Lao PDR is developing a **National EORE Strategy for 2026-2030**, with the aim of integrating EORE more effectively into a sector-wide coordination framework involving public health, education, mass media, and other relevant sectors. The Strategy will seek to strengthen coordination across relevant sectors, improving targeting and reach of risk education activities, and mobilize sustainable resources, and improve monitoring and evaluation.

We are also exploring appropriate use of digital and interactive communication tools, particularly to engage young people and communities that are difficult to reach, while maintaining strong community-based approaches.

The development of this national strategy is also consistent with the direction reflected in **Action 28 of the Vientiane Capital Action Plan**, including the need for inclusive and accessible risk education, adaptability to changing contexts, stronger integration with other areas of Convention implementation, and greater use data to guide interventions and measure their impact.

In this spirit, I am pleased to invite all delegates to join the side event, **“Making Action 28 Work: Risk Education Leadership under the CCM,”** on 16 September 2026, jointly organized by the Lao PDR and Lebanon, with the support of GICHD.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Despite this aforementioned progress, significant challenges remain. The geographical extent of contamination, changing patterns of risk and limited resources require EORE to remain continuous and adaptable, particularly in remote and high-risk communities.

The Lao PDR therefore calls for continued international cooperation and support to sustain and expand risk-education activities, strengthen national capacity and promote exchange of experience and good practices.

We stand ready to work with all States Parties, international organisations, civil society, and other partners to ensure that life-saving information reaches every community and every person who remains at risk from unexploded ordnance, **so that no one at risk is left behind.**

Thank you.