



Statement delivered by South Africa on Risk Education 9(d)

**Third Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions,
Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic 14 to 18 September 2026**

Mr President

South Africa wishes to express our appreciation to the Coordinator on Risk Education, Lebanon, on its work and report on progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of Articles 4.2 and 4.3 of the Convention regarding risk education since the Second Review Conference.

South Africa recognises that risk education remains a critical component of the implementation of Article 4 of the Convention and an essential measure for protecting civilians from the dangers posed by cluster munition remnants.

While South Africa is not a cluster munition-affected State, we believe that sustained awareness-raising and preventive education efforts contribute to strengthening the humanitarian objectives of the Convention and reinforcing the global norm against cluster munitions. We therefore support efforts to promote greater public awareness of the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, including through engagement with educational institutions, civil society, humanitarian organisations and relevant government stakeholders.

We further encourage the sharing of information, best practices and lessons learned among States Parties on risk education methodologies and community outreach initiatives. Such efforts can assist in ensuring that civilians, particularly women, children, youth, peacekeepers, humanitarian personnel and other populations at risk, are able to recognise the dangers associated with explosive remnants of war, including cluster munition remnants, and take appropriate measures to avoid harm.

South Africa believes that risk education programmes should be community-centred, age- and gender-sensitive, accessible to persons with disabilities, and integrated, where appropriate, into broader initiatives related to civilian protection, humanitarian awareness and mine action education.

Mr President,

In conclusion, as reflected in the humanitarian spirit of the Convention, risk education should not only seek to prevent accidents and casualties, but also contribute to building a culture of awareness, prevention and protection.

I thank you.