

Third Review Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (3RC)

International Cooperation and Assistance

Australia

14 - 18 September 2026

President

I would like to start by acknowledging and thanking the Netherlands and Switzerland in their roles as coordinators for International Cooperation and Assistance for their committed work and detailed report.

We are grateful for all efforts made by states, international organisations and civil society to this end.

Many important strides have been taken in international efforts on cluster munitions since the first meeting of states parties here in Vientiane back in 2010. The hosting of this review conference in Vientiane allows us to take stock of how far we have come while also recognising the need for continued international cooperation and assistance efforts.

Australia is committed to reducing the socio-economic impacts of cluster munition and other remnants of war.

We have sought to build synergies and bring together states and partners, particularly in our region, to inform a shared approach to future risk reduction and education on explosive ordnance. The regional links that we strengthen, fortify our international frameworks and in turn enhance our shared capacity to manage mine action programs.

In 2025, our funding commitment to mine action of AUD 10 million represented a 20% increase on the previous year. This funded regional programs in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Palau and Kiribati as well as international partner organisations.

Australia's multi-year partnership with GICHD helped deliver a series of workshops in 2024 and 2025 aimed at reducing the risk posed by explosive ordnance in the Pacific.

The Australian-led Operation Render Safe, Australia's enduring commitment to remove World-War Two-era ERW in Pacific Island Countries remains a cornerstone of our international assistance. Most recently, Operation Render Safe 2026 disposed of over 2200 munitions across East New Britain in Papua New Guinea.

We are further engaged in regional cooperation through the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus Experts' Humanitarian Mine Action Working Group.

We welcome the inclusion of measures to build international cooperation and assistance in the Action Plan to be adopted at this Review Conference and encourage efforts to advance these actions in the review cycle ahead.

Thank you, President.