

CMC Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance
Third Review Conference, Convention on Cluster Munitions
Vientiane Capital, 14-18 September 2026

Thank you, President.

Article 6 embodies the Convention's commitment to shared responsibility. For States Parties in a position to provide assistance, it establishes an obligation to do so. The Cluster Munition Coalition views international cooperation and assistance as essential to translating the Convention's promises into clearance of contaminated land, protection of communities and sustained support for victims.

The Convention has delivered important results. Eleven States Parties have completed their clearance obligations, and States Parties have destroyed all their stockpiles. These achievements demonstrate what strong national commitment, sustained international cooperation and the work of affected communities and implementing organisations can accomplish together.

However, as we conclude the Lausanne Action Plan period, serious challenges remain. Globally, 2025 recorded one of the highest annual numbers of cluster munition casualties since 2010. Meanwhile, since the Second Review Conference, only one additional State Party - Bosnia and Herzegovina - has declared completion of its Article 4 clearance obligations. Ten States Parties remain contaminated by cluster munition remnants, while ongoing use continues to create new contamination globally.

Funding constraints have slowed clearance in many affected States Parties. In Afghanistan, land release has declined alongside reduced international funding since 2021. In Iraq, insufficient funding has kept operational capacity well below the level envisaged in its last extension request. Chad, Chile and Somalia conducted no land release in 2025, largely due to lack of funding.

These shortfalls do not simply delay activities. They prolong communities' exposure to danger and undermine credible plans for completion. The Cluster Munition Coalition is concerned that repeated extensions risk becoming a substitute for adequately resourced implementation. Where extensions are necessary, credible workplans must be matched by concerted efforts to secure the resources needed to deliver them. States Parties should bear this in mind when considering the extension request at this Review Conference.

Risk education and victim assistance also require sustained attention and resources. Funding for these areas remains difficult to track because available data is insufficiently disaggregated. Better reporting is needed to identify gaps and direct support where it is most urgently required. The draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan recognises that population growth, climate change, conflict and population movements can increase exposure to explosive ordnance. Risk education therefore needs flexible, predictable and sustained funding to adapt to changing threats and reach those most at risk. Where people cannot act on safety advice because they lack safe alternatives, risk education must be linked to broader humanitarian, livelihood and protection support.

For cluster munition victims, assistance is a long-term responsibility. States Parties must identify unmet needs and specify where additional resources are required so that victims can access the services and support they need and are entitled to. Funding must sustain medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support, and social and economic inclusion.

Survivor-led organisations and grassroots networks also need accessible, sustained funding to strengthen their capacity, support their members and participate meaningfully in decisions that affect them. Their expertise and leadership are essential to effective assistance.

President,

The draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan offers an opportunity to strengthen how cooperation and assistance are delivered. States Parties in a position to provide assistance should commit predictable, multi-year funding and coordinate their support around clearly identified needs, including in affected states that struggle to attract international assistance.

The Cluster Munition Coalition encourages States Parties to explore pooled funding arrangements, such as a Voluntary Trust Fund, to help address these gaps. Funding should also be accessible to local organisations and survivor-led networks.

Affected States Parties should prioritise domestic resources within their capacities, set out costed needs and report transparently on funding received, expenditure and remaining gaps through Article 7 reports and, where relevant, extension requests. Country coalitions can help bring national authorities, donors, implementing organisations and affected communities together around shared priorities and practical plans.

The Cluster Munition Coalition calls on States Parties to match their commitments with resources. Over the next five years, predictable funding, stronger partnerships and national ownership must translate into faster clearance, effective risk education and sustained support for victims.

The measure of our success must be the difference we make in affected people's lives.

Thank you.