
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by Greta Zeender
Head, External relations, policy and donor relations, GICHD

Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Vientiane, 14–18 September 2026

International cooperation and assistance

Mr President,

Cooperation and assistance are essential to supporting affected States Parties' implementation. As needs remain significant and resources become increasingly constrained, this is even more important.

Effective cooperation and assistance are not only about mobilizing financial resources. They also require matching the right support to the right needs, while building the national capacities needed to address them over the longer term.

We therefore welcome the Vientiane Capital Action Plan's focus on the conditions needed to make assistance as effective as possible.

First, the VCAP recognizes that cooperation includes the sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience, in addition to the provision of financial support.

Second, the Plan emphasizes the importance of basing requests for assistance on evidence-based national plans that are informed by gender and diversity considerations.

Third, it underlines the role of national and international coordination, with national authorities defining needs and priorities and donors and other partners aligning their support accordingly.

These principles are central to the way the GICHD works. Our support is tailored to the national context through an initial assessment of needs, challenges and existing capacities. We also facilitate peer exchange and training at the regional level to help strengthening national expertise and disseminating good practice. Finally, we facilitate coordination to promote alignment between needs and support by all relevant stakeholders.

Mr President,

The VCAP calls on States in a position to do so to provide assistance that is sustainable, predictable and needs-based. To meet this commitment, we need to consider how assistance is provided in practice.

Impact over the medium and long term requires planning beyond annual funding cycles. While greater predictability allows realistic planning, sustained investments in national capacities help maintain progress over time, including after completion of clearance obligations.

The commitment to needs-based assistance is particularly important. Resources will inevitably be influenced by a range of considerations. But identified humanitarian needs must remain central to decisions about where assistance is directed.

As new crises attract attention and resources, the impact of legacy contamination continues and is, at times, unmet. Similarly, risk education and victim assistance are critical to protect civilians and ensure adequate health and living conditions for direct and indirect victims. Yet, they are both historically underfunded.

Mr President,

Effective cooperation and assistance calls for clear plans and coordination, but also financial contributions that are predictable, sustainable and responsive to humanitarian needs.

The GICHD remains committed to working with States Parties and partners towards this objective.

Thank you.