



**Convention on Cluster Munitions
3rd Review Conference
September 2026**

**Statement by The HALO Trust
International Cooperation and Assistance**

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Thank you, Chair.

The HALO Trust would like to thank the Lao People's Democratic Republic for hosting us here in Vientiane, and for the leadership of the Presidency throughout the Review Conference process. We also thank the Implementation Support Unit for its continued support.

We welcome the Vientiane Capital Action Plan led by the Presidency which provides an important framework for the years ahead. We stand ready to support its implementation on the ground.

Chair,

International cooperation and assistance underpins the practical work of implementing this Convention.

Here in Lao PDR, HALO values our long-term partnership with national authorities, communities, and other mine action partners since 2012. Our HALO Lao colleagues have cleared 64 square kilometres of land and safely destroyed more than 90,000 cluster munition remnants. More than 315,000 people have received explosive ordnance risk education, and over 100,000 people have benefited from land made safe to use.

And what happens afterwards is what matters most: land can be farmed without fear, homes and infrastructure can be built more safely, and communities have greater freedom to use the land around them.

None of this is quick work. Sustained support matters because it allows national authorities and operators to retain experienced teams, plan work properly, and avoid risky disruptions. Predictability means resources go where they are needed most and have the greatest impact.

There is scope to make those resources go further and increase efficiency.

Technology is already changing some of the ways we work. Here, in Lao PDR, HALO is using high-accuracy mapping to record explosive ordnance finds more precisely. Across HALO programmes worldwide, we are also making greater use of digital information management, remote sensing, new detector technologies, and data-led planning.

What we have learned is that new technology must work in practice. It needs to answer a real operational need, suit the local environment, and be affordable to maintain. Where possible, it should also strengthen the systems and skills that remain in-country over the long term.

Chair,

The coming years will require continued cooperation between affected States, donors, national authorities, operators and communities.

HALO will continue to support the priorities set by the countries where we work, share lessons from our operations, and contribute where our experience can be useful.

I thank you.