



STATEMENT

“Agenda item 9 (f) International Cooperation and Assistance”

16 September 2026

The 3rd Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
14-18 September 2026, Vientiane Capital

(Please check against delivery)

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, I wish to express our appreciation to **the Netherlands and Switzerland**, the **Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance**, for their important work in advancing this critical area of the Convention.

For the Lao PDR, international cooperation and assistance are essential to addressing the enduring humanitarian and socio-economic consequences of cluster munition remnants. While national ownership and responsibility remain at the heart of implementation, our experience demonstrates that the scale and complexity of contamination in Lao PDR require sustained international partnership.

International cooperation is about much more than financial assistance. At its best, it **strengthens national capacity and ownership, facilitates the exchange of expertise and technology, and enables affected States to achieve sustainable results.**

Excellencies,

In 2025, the Lao PDR received approximately **US\$51 million¹** in international assistance through bilateral and multilateral channels, including Canada, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States and other partners. This assistance has been instrumental in sustaining **survey and clearance, risk education, victim assistance and capacity-building activities** across affected provinces.

Beyond financial contributions, our partners have also provided important **capacity-building and human-resource development support** across the UXO sector. Through training and technical assistance, partners such as **TETRA TECH, JICA, JICS, ARMAC, and GICHD**, among others, have contributed to strengthening national expertise, institutional capacity and the overall effectiveness and sustainability of the UXO sector.

This partnership continues to deliver. During the first eight months of 2026, the Lao PDR has received approximately **US\$42 million²** in international assistance. During

¹ Lao PDR's CCM Report 2025

² NRA consolidated Data

the same period, more than **4,200 hectares (42 square kilometres) of land** were cleared and **49,000 UXO items** were destroyed, including over **31,000 cluster munitions remnants**, while approximately **6,700 hectares (67 square kilometres) of confirmed hazardous** areas were identified. These figures demonstrate both what international cooperation can achieve and the magnitude of the challenge that remains.

Allow me to express our sincere appreciation to Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Switzerland, United Kingdom, for your support this Presidency.

We deeply value the long-standing solidarity and partnership of our development partners, donor countries, operators, and humanitarian organizations, whose continued support has made this progress possible.

Excellencies,

The Lao PDR is equally committed to strengthening national ownership. Following the Mid-Term Evaluation of the **Safe Path Forward III**, we have updated our National Mine Action Standards, aligning with relevant international standards, strengthen prioritization and information management, and adopted Informational Management Action Plan 2026-2030, including the implementation of the IMSMA core.

We remain committed to making the greatest possible progress towards fulfilment of our **Article 4 obligations during the current extension period through 2030**.

Distinguished delegates,

The experience of the Lao PDR is not unique. Across the Convention, affected States continue to require international cooperation and assistance to meet their obligations. The *forthcoming* **Vientiane Capital Action Plan (VCAP)** recognises this reality and places national ownership, predictable resources and stronger partnerships at the centre of future implementation.

Effective cooperation requires responsibilities on both sides. Affected States should demonstrate clear national priorities, credible and costed plans, transparency and effective coordination. States in position to assist should strive to provide sustained, predictable and needs-based financial, technical and capacity-building support.

Multi-year assistance and flexible funding can be particularly important in enabling long-term planning and operational continuity. We also see value in coordination mechanisms such as **Country Coalitions**, where appropriate, and in exploring pooled and innovative funding approaches to address persisting resource gaps. The forthcoming **VCAP** expressly recognises **Country Coalitions** as a means of strengthening engagement among affected States, donors, operators and other Stakeholders.

Excellencies,

The Lao PDR remains deeply grateful for the solidarity and partnership extended to us over many years. As President of this Review Conference, we hope that the next review cycle will further strengthen the partnership between affected States and those in position to assist, **turning national ownership and international solidarity into measurable progress on the ground.**

Together, we can save lives, return land to communities and accelerate progress towards a world free from the threat of cluster munitions.

Thank you.