

Cluster Munitions Convention
Third Review Conference
14.-18.9.2026

Item 9 (h) – Compliance
Statement by Austria

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Mr. President,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is among the youngest Conventions in the field of humanitarian disarmament. A lot has been learnt and drawn from previous experience. The Convention is guided by a cooperative approach based on trust and a common understanding that cluster munitions cause unacceptable harm to civilians and must therefore never be used by anyone under any circumstances. It is equally prohibited to develop and produce, transfer and stockpile cluster munitions. This strong commitment and adherence to the norm remains an important element of guidance also for the next review cycle.

To keep the norms of the Convention strong, reports of the alleged use of cluster munitions by anyone regardless of the circumstances must be thoroughly investigated. The necessary measures in such cases entail rigorous and impartial investigations, transparent communication with other States Parties about findings, and the implementation of measures to prevent and suppress prohibited acts in connection with cluster munitions.

In this regard, we express our concerns over the reports of use of cluster munitions in Mali, a State Party. We call on Mali to investigate and clarify the allegations, report to States Parties on its findings and to prevent further incidents, if necessary. Our Convention provides for a cooperative approach in this regard and we wish to ensure Mali of our continued support and openness to engage on the outcome of their investigations.

Only by standing together, adhering to and defending the norms of the Convention can we work towards ensuring that cluster munitions are never used again.

Thank you