

**NPA Statement on Agenda item 9h) - Compliance
Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Vientiane, 14-18 September 2026**

**Delivered by
Ingebjørg Sørenes, Senior Policy Advisor**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions' achievements over the past 16 years are a testament to what can be accomplished when states translate their commitments into action. Compliance with the Convention's obligations is central to this - it is what ensures that the treaty remains a living instrument that continues to deliver tangible results where it's needed the most. Full compliance and accountability are essential for safeguarding the Convention's integrity and credibility.

States Parties to this Convention have committed themselves to do their utmost to finally end the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions. This can only be achieved if these inhumane weapons are never used again, by anyone, under any circumstances. Full compliance with the absolute prohibition set in Article 1 lies in the heart of these efforts. There are no exceptional circumstances that could ever justify use of cluster munitions.

NPA is deeply concerned about the recent reports of use of cluster munitions in Mali, a State Party to the Convention. We align with the call for action and statements just delivered by the CMC and Mine Action Review. We join Austria, Ireland and other States Parties in their call on Mali to conduct a rigorous, impartial and transparent investigation into these reports and provide full transparency and cooperation in establishing the facts.

We further support Panama's proposal for establishing a compliance mechanism within the Convention's machinery, which would help ensure compliance matters in relation to Article 1 are dealt with in a structured and transparent manner in the cooperative spirit of the Convention.

Mr. President,

The responsibility to implement and defend this treaty lies with all States Parties. The Convention is a cornerstone of international humanitarian law and requires that principled compliance with all its provisions is ensured without exception.

As one of the largest humanitarian mine action operators, with decades of experience from conflict and post-conflict contexts, we can attest that compliance with this Convention saves lives.

Thank you.