



Statement delivered by South Africa on Implementation Support 9 (j)

**Third Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Vientiane,
Lao People's Democratic Republic 14 to 18 September 2026**

Mr President ,

South Africa extends its appreciation to the Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the presentation of the 2025 Annual Report and the proposed Five-Year Work Plan and Budget for the period 2027-2031. The provisional programme of work identifies implementation support as a key component of the Review Conference's assessment of the operation and status of the Convention.

South Africa commends the ISU for its continued dedication in supporting States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention. Over the reporting period, the ISU has played an important role in facilitating cooperation among States Parties, supporting the work of the Coordinators, assisting with transparency reporting, promoting universalisation efforts, and contributing to the effective preparation of this Third Review Conference.

The achievements recorded in the implementation of the Convention are closely linked to the support provided by the ISU. For many States Parties, particularly developing countries with limited administrative and technical capacities, the ISU remains an indispensable source of expertise, institutional memory and practical implementation support.

South Africa welcomes the strategic orientation of the proposed 2027-2031 Work Plan. In our view, the next implementation cycle should focus on supporting the priorities that emerge from the Vientiane Action Plan, strengthening assistance to States Parties facing implementation challenges, and ensuring that the Convention remains responsive to evolving humanitarian and operational realities.

In this regard, South Africa would encourage the ISU to continue prioritising:

- Support for universalisation efforts, including outreach to States not yet party and engagement aimed at strengthening adherence to the Convention;
- Assistance to States Parties in meeting their transparency reporting obligations under Article 7,
- Support for affected States in the fields of clearance, risk education and victim assistance;
- Facilitation of international cooperation and assistance partnerships under Article 6;
- Promotion of survivor-centred, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive approaches to implementation; and

- Strengthening knowledge-sharing, exchange of best practices and South-South cooperation among States Parties.

Mr President,

South Africa further believes that the proposed work plan should place particular emphasis on supporting developing countries and affected States in building sustainable national implementation capacity. Long-term implementation depends not only on financial resources but also on national ownership, institutional development and the strengthening of domestic expertise.

We also welcome efforts aimed at improving the accessibility and usefulness of implementation guidance and reporting tools. Practical support that assists States Parties in meeting their obligations contributes directly to the effectiveness and credibility of the Convention.

With regard to the proposed budget for 2027-2031, South Africa recognises that adequate and predictable resources are essential if the ISU is to discharge its mandate effectively. At the same time, we encourage continued efforts to ensure transparency, accountability, cost-effectiveness and prudent financial management.

South Africa supports a sustainable and adequately resourced ISU capable of delivering on the priorities established by States Parties while maintaining value for money and responsiveness to implementation needs.

As we move into the next review cycle, South Africa remains convinced that a strong, well-resourced and effective ISU will be critical to supporting implementation of the Convention, advancing universalisation, strengthening the humanitarian norm against cluster munitions and assisting States Parties in achieving the goals set out in the Vientiane Action Plan.

I thank you.