



Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
at the
Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
14-18 September 2026

Gender mainstreaming

as delivered by
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Thank you, Mr President,

First of all, my delegation would like to thank Austria and Cameroon as Gender Focal Points of the Convention for giving an update on the progress on the implementation of gender and diversity in the work of the Convention.

Mr President,

As we review the Convention on Cluster Munitions and collectively work on the Vientiane Capital Action Plan, it is imperative to reflect both on the progress made and on the work that remains.

We are encouraged by the increasing efforts of States Parties to mainstream gender considerations into implementation. Women and girls are affected in specific and different ways. While most direct casualties of cluster munitions are men and boys, women and girls are more likely to be *indirect* victims. They frequently bear the long-term consequences. Women and girls often assume caretaking responsibilities, which in turn limits their access to work and education. They also frequently shoulder the burden of providing financial support when the main provider is injured or killed. Unexploded ordnance often limits the mobility of those living in affected areas, especially when they engage in daily subsistence activities such as collecting water. These activities are traditionally carried out by women as well.

Mr president,

During this Review Conference, we should acknowledge that implementation remains a key challenge. Progress is being made, but it remains slow. According to reporting on the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan, only half of the assessed countries have integrated gender and diversity dimensions into their survey and clearance activities. Underrepresentation means that valuable

perspectives and lived experiences remain excluded. The result is not only a gap in inclusivity, but also in the effectiveness of risk education, clearance operations, and ultimately, in achieving inclusive security for all.

It remains vital that gender considerations are not addressed in isolation. It is therefore essential that the Vientiane Capital Action Plan adopts a holistic approach to gender, recognizing and addressing its cross-cutting nature across all areas of implementation. My delegation wholeheartedly supports the inclusion of clear guidance in the Vientiane Capital Action Plan on gender- and diversity-related actions.

Mr President,

The Netherlands is fully committed to strengthening its collective efforts in building inclusive security for women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity.

Thank you.