



STATEMENT

“Agenda item 9 (k) Gender Mainstreaming”

(k) Other matters important for achieving the aims of the Convention

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 sincere appreciation to **Austria and Cameroon**, the **Coordinators on General Status and Operation**, for their dedicated efforts to advance gender mainstreaming and ensure a diverse approach to the implementation of the Convention.

The Lao PDR is pleased to take the floor under this agenda item and reaffirms our commitment to the effective integration of gender considerations in the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Taking this opportunity, I wish to express our appreciation to the relevant Gender Focal Points for their work in supporting States Parties in this important area.

For the Lao PDR, gender mainstreaming is an integral part of effective, inclusive and people-centred UXO Action. Our experience shows that UXO programmes are more responsive when they take into account the different risks, needs, capacities and perspectives of women, girls, boys, and men in affected communities, while promoting the meaningful participation and empowerment of women.

Excellencies,

Over the past years, the Lao PDR has continued to incorporate gender considerations into national policies, institutional arrangements and practical measures within the UXO sector. **Safe Path Forward III** recognises gender mainstreaming as an important element of the national programme and highlights the value of women's meaningful participation in planning and implementation.

We have also strengthened institutional arrangements through the establishment of a **Gender Coordination Committee** for the UXO sector and the appointment by National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of **gender focal points and sub-focal points** within the Technical Working Groups on survey and clearance, Explosive Ordinance Risk Education, victim assistance and information management. These mechanisms support coordination, exchange experiences and the practical integration of gender considerations across UXO-related activities

Importantly, these efforts are reflected in the growing participation of women across the sector. In 2025, women represented approximately **37 per cent** of the UXO

sector workforce¹ and are increasingly engaged in leadership and operational roles, including in survey and clearance and community risk education. This provides a strong basis for further strengthening women's participation in both decision-making and operational activities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also approved a **Gender and Inclusion Code of Conduct** for the NRA and UXO Lao, together with a **Human Resources Policy Supplement**, providing practical guidance for recruitment, team composition and staff development.

At the operational level, we are strengthening the collection and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability through our Information Management System. Such data will help ensure that planning, prioritization and programme delivery respond more effectively to the different needs and circumstances of affected communities.

Excellencies,

Looking ahead, the Lao PDR welcomes the practical and implementation-oriented approach reflected in the **draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan 2027-2031**. In taking forward its relevant provisions, we will continue to promote the meaningful participation of women and strengthen the capacity of national institutions and operators to integrate gender and inclusion considerations into UXO sector planning and implementation, in accordance with the broader national development priorities and capacities.

We also welcome continued exchange of good practices, capacity-building and technical cooperation among States Parties and partners, particularly in support of affected States.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

For the Lao PDR, gender mainstreaming ultimately means ensuring that UXO action responds effectively to the different needs of affected people and that women are able to participate meaningfully in the decisions and activities that shape their communities.

¹ MAR 2026, p.67

The Lao PDR stands ready to continue working with States Parties and partners to advance these practical efforts and support the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

Thank you