

Convention on Cluster Munitions, Third Review Conference (3RC)

14-18 September 2026, Vientiane

Agenda item 9(d): Risk Education

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group. We would like to inform you that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action formally “welcomes and supports” this EORE AG statement.

The EORE Advisory Group welcomes the progress achieved under the Convention since the Second Review Conference and commends States Parties for the strengthened attention given to explosive ordnance risk education and risk reduction as essential components to alleviate the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, and their broader recognition as an enabling pillar of Convention implementation.

A particularly significant achievement has been the establishment of the EORE Coordinator role under the Convention. The leadership first provided by Lao PDR, and subsequently continued through the commitment of other affected States Parties, notably Lebanon in its capacity as risk education coordinator, has elevated EORE within Convention discussions and implementation. Dedicated thematic discussions during Meetings of States Parties, the development of working papers, and a series of workshops and exchanges among practitioners and States Parties have helped strengthen collective understanding, improve coordination, and ensure that EORE remains responsive to evolving threats and operational realities.

The leadership of national EORE representatives from States Parties including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Lao PDR, and Lebanon, has helped ensure that their experience and expertise, as well as the voices of affected communities, are reflected in policy discussions and implementation efforts.

At the operational level, important progress has been made in line with the Lausanne Action Plan, notably Action 28. EORE has become increasingly evidence-based, community-centred, adaptive, and integrated with broader humanitarian action. The use of diverse, innovative delivery methods has improved reach, effectiveness, and impact of EORE. This has contributed to reaching comprehensive protection objectives, fostering peer-to-peer learning, along with harmonized guidance to adapt to new and increasingly complex conflict environments.

In countries experiencing ongoing conflict or emerging from recent conflict, EORE, including cluster munition risk education, is critical in reducing civilian harm. Risk education enables safer

STATEMENT EORE AG

movement, supports the return of displaced populations, facilitates survey and clearance efforts, and contributes to recovery, reconstruction, and building social cohesion. At the same time, EORE must continue to adapt to evolving operational realities, including new warfare technologies, in particular drone-related, and natural disasters and extreme weather events that compound or reshape contamination risks. These challenges often coincide with constrained resources in many affected contexts. Strengthening collaboration and integration between EORE, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and layperson first aid initiatives can deliver significant protective and resilience-building benefits for affected communities.

Moreover, EORE remains indispensable in countries where conflicts ended decades ago, yet cluster munitions continue to threaten lives and livelihoods. In these contexts, EORE must evolve through contextually appropriate, innovative and integrated approaches with other development sectors, including education, livelihoods, climate adaptation, and disaster preparedness, ensuring that the most vulnerable remain protected.

As reflected in Action 28(b) and 28(c), effective risk reduction requires not only raising awareness of explosive ordnance risks, but must also address the social and economic factors that compel people to take such risks. Sustained partnerships across the humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors are therefore essential.

The continued relevance of EORE is underscored by current trends. According to the Cluster Munition Monitor 2025, at least 314 cluster munition casualties were recorded in 2024, all of them civilians, while children accounted for approximately 42% of casualties from cluster munition remnants. The Monitor also reports that 29 countries and other territories remain affected by cluster munition contamination, demonstrating that the humanitarian consequences of these weapons continue long after their use.

Mr. President,

While the importance of EORE is increasingly recognized, the resources available to support it have not kept pace.

The expectations placed upon affected States Parties, national authorities, and implementing organizations have grown. Yet many EORE programmes continue to face funding shortfalls, reduced operational capacity, and uncertainty regarding long-term sustainability.

This gap between political recognition and practical support threatens to undermine the very progress that States Parties have worked so hard to achieve. Available funding for mine action and EORE has become increasingly concentrated in a small number of contexts. Sustained support across all affected contexts is necessary to ensure that no community is left behind. This gap between political recognition and practical support risks undermining the very progress that States Parties have worked so hard to achieve.

In this regard, the EORE Advisory Group recalls Article 6 of the Convention, which provides that each State Party in a position to do so shall provide technical, material and financial assistance to States Parties affected by cluster munitions. Continued, sustained, and more balanced international cooperation and assistance will be essential to ensure that EORE reaches all populations exposed to the risks posed by cluster munition remnants.

STATEMENT EORE AG

We therefore call upon States Parties, donors, and partners to fully support the implementation of Action 28 of the Vientiane Capital Action Plan by:

- Ensuring robust and sustainable funding for EORE projects,
- Enhancing EORE mainstreaming in emergency, development, peacebuilding and climate resilience, in populated but also remote or underserved areas;
- Supporting affected States Parties in maintaining active local and national leadership and participation in Convention mechanisms, including the work of the EORE Coordinator and thematic cooperation structures.

EORE is prevention. Every accident prevented is a life protected, a family spared tragedy, and a community able to pursue its recovery and development with greater confidence and resilience.

As we look ahead to the next review cycle, let us ensure that the political commitment demonstrated under this Convention is matched by the resources necessary to translate that commitment into meaningful protection for affected communities.

Thank you.