

Statement on Transparency Measures
6th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
6 September 2016



Thank you Mr. Chairman for allowing me to take the floor on behalf of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC).

Transparency reporting is a mandatory requirement of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and a cornerstone of effective treaty implementation. It serves a number of key purposes, enabling States Parties to demonstrate that they are implementing the Convention as they should while at the same time serving as a confidence-building measure and a true prop of the norm that cluster munitions are banned forever and that their use, in whatever context, is worthy of all condemnation.

The CMC therefore notes with optimism that in the Dubrovnik Action Plan, states adopted excellent ambitious targets on all aspects of convention implementation, including transparency reporting.

In order to measure the attainment of these targets, baseline data, and annual information on progress is needed. Transparency reports are a key source for both. It is in this spirit therefore that the CMC congratulates those States Parties that have thus far submitted their initial and annual reports in a timely fashion.

Whilst a good and encouraging number of states are dutifully turning in their transparency reports, the CMC observes with some considerable worry that over 20 states are yet to submit their initial reports, and many more have been defaulting on their annual updates. Sadly, this includes states that are believed to possess stockpiles of cluster munitions, like Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and South Africa. A state with contamination, Chile, has not submitted a report since 2013. We urge all states that are late with report submission to make use of the available support here this week and to promptly submit their reports.

The CMC wishes to remind states that transparency reporting is a non-negotiable requirement of the Convention.

The CMC feels that in order to surmount this problem, it is necessary to examine the reasons that may cause some states to fall behind in this duty.

By addressing common reasons that have hitherto been advanced such as lack of human and resource capacity, wobbly political will, and failure to appreciate the fact that the Convention has with immense benefits for states and humanity which inter alia include the alleviation of human suffering, freeing-up land for tourism, agricultural and other infrastructural development, the members states will be re-confirming the reason the Convention was brought into being in the first place.

The CMC proposes that workable solutions, and not recycled excuses, need to be sought not just internationally but also in the context of regional or sub-regional cooperation and assistance.

Additionally the CMC suggests that states that have already submitted their initial report may simply hand in a cover page in subsequent years, if the situation related to cluster munitions has remained unchanged in the country.

CMC members stand ready to provide assistance in this regard.

In closing the CMC thanks Costa Rica for its work on transparency and for its overall leadership on this Convention, in particular Mr Norman Lizano for its dedication spanning many years. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.