

## **CONCEPT NOTE ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CCM**

### **Enhancing Implementation of Action 1 of the Dubrovnik Action Plan (Universalization) up to the 8th Meeting of States Parties (8MSP)**

#### **1. Background to Work Plan Context**

The 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is a legally binding international treaty that comprehensively prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions. Cluster Munitions are unacceptable for two main reasons: - firstly, they have wide area effects and are unable to distinguish between civilians and combatants and secondly, their use leaves behind large numbers of unexploded ordnance which continue to kill, injure and maim civilians, obstruct economic and social development for years after use.

As of 27 September 2017, 119 States have joined the Convention of which 102 are States Parties, and the remaining 17 are signatories that have yet to ratify. To guide States Parties effectively implement the Convention during the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020, at the September 2015 First Review Conference of States Party to the CCM, States agreed to the five year Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP).

The DAP elaborates the priorities established by the States Parties through the various actions to be undertaken and the expected key results to be derived from these actions. Universalization of the CCM is the DAP's Action 1 and will provide the primary basis on which this concept note's activities to achieve the outlined objectives will be derived.

Action 1 of the DAP aims to increase adherence with the Convention, promote the universalization of the Convention and reinforce the norms being established by the Convention. The DAP also aspires to have increased the number of States Parties to 130 by the 2nd Review Conference of the Convention scheduled for 2020.

#### **2. Objectives**

- Increased number of States Parties by the 8MSP;
- Increased stigmatization of the use of cluster munitions;
- Increased awareness of the Convention; and
- Decreased number of reported alleged and confirmed instances of use.

### **3. Strategy, Activities and Timelines**

a) As a general principle, **a close coordination of efforts between the Chair and the coordinators will be sought.**

b) **Building on the efforts of previous CCM Presidencies and coordinators towards Non States Parties which could potentially accede to the Convention:**

- Identification of potential new States parties (target at least 2 countries per region) by 30th November, 2017;
- General demarches or tailored (joint) missions to capitals;
- Outreach to Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Parliamentarians in January 2018 through letters by the chair and the coordinators for universalization;
- Outreach to disarmament experts of the Permanent Missions in Geneva, starting from January 2018;
- Interact through bilateral meetings (in capitals, Geneva, through our Embassies, alongside meetings); Include CCM on the Agenda of all relevant meetings (national, bilateral, regional, international) up to the 8MSP;
- Host at least 1 regional universalization workshop to promote ratification/accession (in Latin America and the Caribbean Region ) by 31st July 2018; Identify obstacles to ratification/accession in target states and propose solutions 31st December, 2016
- Development of a toolkit that describes generic procedures and steps towards the submission of ratification or acceptance instruments [that would be made available on the Convention's website](#) – ICRC's CCM Ratification Kit could be a good basis for these efforts;
- Encouragement to develop and make public an action plan of steps to take to ratify/accede;
- Provision of model legislation and respective practical assistance for Non-States Parties requiring assistance prior to accession, for example, the ICRC's Model Instruments of Accession to the Convention;
- Organize a side event in which States Parties can share their experiences throughout the ratification process and the implementation phase, so this could encourage States that has not yet ratified the CCM to become a Party to the Convention, and at the same time it will serve as a platform for exchange lessons learned, good practices and identify common challenges and obstacles;
- Prepare a survey, in collaboration with the ISU and CMC, in order to identify the substantive, procedural and technical obstacles for the universalization of the CCM; The outcome of the survey can provide us a sound basis for our outreach efforts [and would be made available on the Convention's website](#).

c) **Entering into a structured dialogue with specific Non States Parties with reservations concerning the Convention, especially major producers.** This dialogue could build on identified steps demonstrating the positive intentions of states towards the humanitarian goals of the Convention, including steps toward decreasing the potential humanitarian harm of cluster munitions (such as stockpile destruction). As an example, some countries have already enforced a moratorium on the use of all cluster munitions, a moratorium on the production and export of cluster munitions or have declared imitations on the possible use of cluster munitions to territorial defense. They could be encouraged to provide voluntary information on these measures, as a first step towards accession. The integration of such measures to a plan of accession or a general commitment to accede to the convention will be sought.

d) Universalization is a **joint effort of all States parties to the CCM:** in addition of the efforts of the President and Coordination Committee, the involvement of all States Parties is necessary. In particular, States Parties should seek all opportunities to make statements during international and bilateral meetings. The increase awareness of the CCM could be reached through the use of existing social media platforms up to the 8MSP.

e) Collaborate with national and international civil society to encourage ratification/accession - up to the 8MSP.

#### **4. Target States**

- States that announced during the 7MSP their intention to ratify the CCM (Philippines, Haiti, Liberia, the Gambia, South Sudan and Sri Lanka);
- Signatory States to the CCM;
- States that co-sponsored and/or vote in favour of the draft resolution L.41 entitled “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions” that are not yet States Parties to the Convention; and
- States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention that has not yet ratified the CCM.

#### **5. Expected Outputs**

- At least eight (8) new States Parties by the 8MSP
- More CCM states have spoken out on the use of cluster munitions by the 8MSP
- More CCM States have adhered to the norms of the Convention by the 8MSP

#### **6. Estimated Budget**

- Limited costs, depending on the activities implemented
- Minimal cost and all expenses will be absorbed

## **7. Strategy Implementers**

France - Coordinator on Universalization

Panama - Coordinator on Universalization

Nicaragua – President of the CCM 8MSP

Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance

CCM - Implementation Support Unit

## **8. Potential Implementing Partners**

- Civil Society
- Other international stakeholder organisations