



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2016 4th Quarter

Highlights

(1 October to 31 December 2016)



Save the date for the Seventh Meeting of States Parties (7MSP)

The President of the 7MSP, H.E. Ambassador Biontino from the Federal Republic of Germany, is pleased to announce that the **7MSP** will take place from **4–6 September 2017** in Room XIX of the Palais des Nations in **Geneva**, Switzerland.

Universalization

In October 2016, the First Committee approved by a vote of 134 in favor a draft text on “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”. On 5th December 2016, during its 71st session the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted Resolution L.22 on the “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions” with 141 votes in favor meaning that the international norm established on the basis of the Convention as well as its humanitarian impact are gaining strength.

Congratulations to Mozambique

In December 2016, Mozambique declared fulfillment of its obligation under article 4 pertaining to clearance and destruction of cluster munitions. The President of the CCM congratulated the Government of Mozambique for its dedicated compliance with CCM commitments which made clearance of affected areas possible well ahead of its 2021 deadline. To date, there are 10 (ten) States Parties with obligations under Article 4 of the CCM.

Regional meetings on enhancing the implementation of the CCM

On 17 November 2016, the **Netherlands and Norway**, in their capacity as Co-coordinators on Clearance for the CCM organized an **expert level workshop** under the framework of **supporting Lebanon in meeting its CCM Article 4 obligations**. The purpose of the workshop was to share lessons learned, ensure continued progress in cluster munition remnant clearance, and find ways to maintain donor support for clearance activities in Lebanon. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) provided technical support during the workshop.

The Centre for Security and Cooperation (RAVIAC) in cooperation with the Government Office for Mine Action of the Republic of Croatia organized on 14–16 November 2016 in Rakitje, Croatia, a **Seminar on the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**.



One of the key objectives was to provide a forum for discussion on the **implementation of the Convention in South Eastern Europe** with a focus on the progress made in the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions, the need for broader universalization efforts, particularly in the light of continued use of cluster munitions in armed conflicts and, finally, to emphasize the overall commitment to implement the Dubrovnik Action Plan in the next four years with a special focus on international and regional cooperation and needs for support from outside the region. In this context, the ISU-CCM Director made a presentation on the achievements and progress made by States Parties in the implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan.



The African Union (AU) organized a **Consultative meeting on enhancing assistance and coordination in the implementation of article 5 of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)** within the framework of the *AU Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Strategic Framework*. The ISU-CCM Director was invited by the AU to attend the meeting and provided an overview of the status of implementation of article 4 of the CCM. The meeting was held in Addis Ababa from 6 to 7 December 2016 and brought together **AU member States Parties to the APMBC and the CCM** which have

completed, or are yet to complete, their clearance obligations, as well as key international partners and humanitarian demining agencies that are active on the continent. It provided participants with the opportunity to review the progress made over the past years in completing clearance of mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war on the continent. The meeting concluded with a set of action points, including modalities to enhance national and international funding for mine action programs, fostering inter-African cooperation and building sustainable national capacities for clearance.

Publications

On Tuesday 29 November 2016, at a side event during the 15th Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in Santiago, the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Coordinators for 2016 and 2017 on Victim Assistance (Australia, Chile and Italy) and International Cooperation and Assistance (Austria, Iraq and Australia) launched a new publication entitled **Guidance on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance**.

The side event was held jointly with the Victim Assistance Committee of the APMBC, which also launched a publication, **Guidance on Victim Assistance Reporting** in parallel. The joint event demonstrated the complementarity of efforts to implement commitments on victim assistance under the CCM, the APMBC and Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and that it is possible to develop common approaches to victim assistance issues across the conventions, with the ultimate aim of helping States to improve the quality of life and uphold the rights of victims. An electronic version of the Guidance is available on the Convention's website. Hard copies of the Guidance can also be obtained from the ISU-CCM or Handicap International.



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