

CCM Thematic Working Group on General Status and Operation

WORK PLAN 2024 -2025

Coordinators:

Germany and Austria

1. Background to the work plan

The 2nd Review Conference of the States Parties (2RC) agreed to designate the Coordinators on General Status and Operation “to act [also] as focal points to provide advice [also] on gender mainstreaming and to ensure that matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities are taken into account in the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan, in cooperation with the other thematic Coordinators” (CCM/CONF/2021/6).

In the Lausanne Declaration - Protecting Lives, Empowering Victims, Enabling Development - the States Parties declared that in implementing the Convention, they would take practical steps to take into account the different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages. States Parties declared that they would strive to ensure full, equal and meaningful gender-balanced participation in the work under the Convention and in Convention meetings.

To guide States Parties in the effective implementation of the Convention during the period up to the Third Review Conference of States Parties to the CCM (3RC) scheduled for 2026, the Second Review Conference (2RC), States agreed to the fiveyear Lausanne Action Plan (LAP). LAP Actions numbers 4, 23, 28, 29, 31, 34, 36, 39 and 41 are relevant for activities with regard to gender mainstreaming.

Further to the important work that the coordinators undertook with regards to gender mainstreaming it should be noted that the 12MSP took place in a challenging context. Prompted by the announcement of withdrawal of a State Party for the first time in the history of the Convention, State Parties interventions underscored the apparent weakening of the norms established by the CCM and IHL more broadly. Concerned with these developments, a majority of States Parties sought stronger compliance with legal treaty obligations “to promote universal adherence to and strict observance of the Convention’s norms, including to discourage, in every possible way, the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions”.

Recalling the agreed understanding adopted at the 2nd Review Conference to the CCM that “*Coordinators on general status and operations (...) have no permanently assigned tasks*” and further that “*this enable(s) them to provide essential support to the Presidency in fulfilling specific and discrete mandates*” the Coordinators propose two areas of work for the 2024-2025 work period, in cooperation with relevant working groups, namely to undertake:

- 1) to continue and enhance the established work as gender mainstreaming focal points, also with a view to the upcoming Review Conference in 2026 and
- 2) to advance work, especially in close collaboration with the Universalization Focal Points, on how to strengthen the humanitarian norms of the CCM.

2. Objectives

1) Gender Mainstreaming

a) Strengthening collaboration within the Coordination Committee in order to streamline considerations on gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities across all thematic areas of the Convention and aiming for greater coherence and inclusivity.

b) Engaging in collaborative efforts with other humanitarian disarmament Conventions (esp. the APMBC) with the aim of fostering synergies and share best practices regarding the promotion of a gender-sensitive approach across these spheres of humanitarian efforts.

c) Exploring potential avenues for collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to enhance the incorporation of gender perspectives in the work of the Convention and to improve the ability of the Coordinators on General Status and Operation to provide advice on gender mainstreaming to the other thematic Coordinators.

d) Enhancing the overall visibility of gender issues within the Convention in order to ensure continuity of the gender mainstreaming Focal Points role of the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation after the Third Review Conference.

2) Strengthening the humanitarian norms of the CCM

a) Together with the Universalization Focal Points, strengthen collaboration on a common position of practical steps for States Parties on how legal obligations with regard to universalization of the CCM and its norms are considered in the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan (more specifically actions 10 and 11 A-D) and across thematic areas (more specifically actions 1 and 8) of the Convention aiming for greater coherence and inclusivity.

Together with the Universalization Focal Points, and supported by the ISU on outreach and communications, enhance the visibility of the Convention and universalization efforts, including with and through IPU and dedicated parliamentary and regional efforts.

b) Engaging in collaborative efforts with the other humanitarian disarmament conventions to foster synergies and share best practices aimed at strengthening their role as key instruments of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and reinforcing their humanitarian character in protecting civilians and addressing the impact of armed conflict.

c) Explore avenues for collaboration with the ICRC and ICBL-CMC to enhance the understanding of IHL as the fundamental underpinning of norms established by individual treaty regimes; foster synergies and sharing of best practices on the implementation of treaty obligations in light of the protection of norms established by humanitarian disarmament treaties and IHL more broadly and across humanitarian efforts on a universal understanding of the preventative dimensions of legally binding humanitarian disarmament instruments to improve the ability of the Coordinators on General Status and Operation to provide advice in future interpretative issues that risk undermining the norms established by the CCM.

3. Implementation activities

1) Gender mainstreaming

a) intensify discussions with the other thematic Coordinators of the Coordination Committee during the Coordination Committee meetings and explore what is needed to improve progress towards the full implementation of agreed actions covering gender, diversity and inclusion.

b) organize meetings between the CCM and other humanitarian disarmament treaties and commitments, esp. the APMBC, to explore how to best enhance synergies on gender and diversity efforts.

c) Continue work with UNIDIR, support research initiatives and outreach programmes to enhance inclusive participation in CCM-related work, prepare a working paper and side event for the CCM Intersessionals and/or CCM Meeting of States Parties.

2) Strengthening the humanitarian norms of the CCM

a) discuss within the CCM how to best strengthen the norms and support universalization of the CCM, explore with ICRC how to get more clarity on the manner in which States Parties to treaty regimes promote and protect norms and undertake their universalization obligations and how to initiate research on the synergies and best practices on the implementation of treaty obligations in light of the protection of norms established by humanitarian disarmament treaties and IHL more broadly.

b) strengthening the cooperation across treaty regimes regarding the promotion of the protection of norms established by the humanitarian disarmament treaties and IHL more broadly and across humanitarian efforts, fostering a universal understanding of the preventative dimensions of legally binding humanitarian disarmament instruments and between the different disarmament conventions in order to reflect on norms and normative accountability in the CCM,

c) work with IPU and dedicated parliamentarians on the promotion and protection of norms established by the CCM, universalization obligations, ask them to use their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions to promote the CCM.

4. Expected Outputs by 11MSP

1) Gender mainstreaming

- Stronger perspective within the CCM Coordination Committee on upcoming work to promote gender and the diverse needs. Stronger cooperation on gender and diversity efforts between the CCM and the other humanitarian disarmament treaties and commitments.
- States Parties receive information on progress towards the implementation of agreed actions covering gender, diversity and inclusion of the Lausanne Action Plan.

2) Strengthening the humanitarian norms of the CCM

- Stronger perspective within the CCM Coordination Committee on the possibilities of how to better protect the humanitarian norms established by the CCM
- Growing network of supporters for compliance and universalization
- Stronger public call to uphold the humanitarian norms of the disarmament conventions.

5. Strategy implementers and potential implementation partners

Germany and Austria in support of the work led by the Presidents of the 13 MSP as well as the 3rd Review Conference.

- CCM coordinators of the Working Groups, especially Norway and Peru on Universalization, CCM Implementation Support Unit,
- Gender Focal Points of the APMBC and other disarmament conventions

- GICHD Gender and Diversity Working Group
- UNIDIR Gender and Disarmament Research Programme
- Universalization Focal Points of other treaty regimes
- ICRC
- IPU and dedicated parliaments
- Other international NGOs/operators and civil society, including ICBL-CMC, individual experts and academia on norms and interpretative issues.

6. Timeline of activities in the lead up the 13th MSP

Fourth Quarter of 2024

1) Gender mainstreaming

- Meeting with the ISU to discuss possible action on gender as well as on the issue of how to strengthen the humanitarian norms of the CCM.
- Approach the CCM coordinators of the Working Groups, express the wish to intensify cooperation on Gender and the wish to initiate a discussion on the issue of compliance and universalization and how to best strengthen humanitarian norms of the CCM.
- Approach the APMBC gender focal points and universalization coordinators, express the wish to continue the good cooperation on gender and the wish to initiate stronger cooperation on the issue of strengthening the humanitarian norms of the CCM and the APMBC.
- Approach UNIDIR to discuss concrete ideas on increased research on gender as well as common projects for the CCM Intersessionals and CCM MSP.

2) Strengthening the humanitarian norms of the CCM

- Approach ICRC, IPU and indicate the wish for stronger cooperation on the issue of how to strengthen the humanitarian norms of the CCM.

First Quarter of 2025

1) Gender mainstreaming

- Meeting with the CCM Presidency to discuss possible action on gender as well as on the issue of strengthening the humanitarian norms of the Cluster Munition Convention.
- Meeting with the GFPs of the APMBC, ideally through an invitation for lunch, to discuss concrete ideas for future cooperation
- Together with UNIDIR prepare and hold an online workshop on “gender-sensitive victim assistance as part of humanitarian disarmament”.

2) Strengthening the humanitarian norms of the CCM

- Meeting with the other CCM coordinators, esp. universalization, of the Working Groups to discuss concrete ideas for future cooperation
- Meeting with ICRC, IPU, ICBL-CMC to explore possible ways of cooperation

- Meeting with international NGOs/operators and civil society to explore possible action on gender and norms and humanitarian principles in general, including outreach and advocacy in the lead up to the 13MSP.

Second Quarter of 2025

1) Gender mainstreaming

- Organize a dialogue around the Intersessional meetings on the norms and obligations of the CCM that relate overall humanitarian disarmament norms and IHL more broadly
- Prepare a working paper for the Intersessionals together with UNIDIR

2) Strengthening the humanitarian norms of the CCM

- Action as identified and agreed during the first quarter with the respective partners.

Third Quarter of 2025

- Prepare and submit thematic input for the 13MSP Progress Report
- Prepare a working paper on gender for the 13th MSP together with UNIDIR.
- Prepare a side-event on gender at the 13th MSP together with UNIDIR
- Other action as identified and agreed during the second quarter with the respective partners.