

# **WORK PLAN ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM) 2024 -2025**

## **Enhancing implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan**

### **Peru and Norway**

#### **Background/Context to Work Plan**

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 were banned for two main reasons:

- They have wide area effects and are unable to distinguish between civilians and combatants; and
- 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.

To date there are 112 States Parties, and 12 Signatories States. To guide States Parties to effectively implement the Convention in the period 2021-2026, at the Second Review Conference of States Parties to the CCM, States agreed to the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP), which 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. Actions 10 and 11 of LAP are related to the universalization of the CCM and will provide the primary basis from which activities of this concept note will be derived.

Additionally, at the Second Review Conference, States Parties endorsed the working paper “Ways Forward in Universalization”, which maps the challenges to further ratifications/ accessions and outlines a strategy based on actionable points.

Universalization efforts do not take place in a vacuum. Recent developments have demonstrated that overall humanitarian disarmament efforts and IHL more generally are faced with unprecedented challenges. The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is not exempted from this shift in attitudes towards international humanitarian law and multilateralism.

Last year marked the first time a State Party evoked Article 20 in the CCM, effectively starting its withdrawal from the Convention. Sixteen years after its adoption, the legal regime established by the CCM is under pressure. The CCM community is witnessing the prospective erosion of hard-won gains and progress made in clearing and destroying cluster munitions and preventing civilian harm. Against this backdrop, the mandate given to all CCM State parties gains renewed importance and urgency: “Each State Party shall encourage states not party to this Convention to ratify, accept, approve or accede to this convention, with the goal of attracting the adherence of all states to this Convention”.

#### **Objectives**

- Avoid additional withdrawals
- Increase number of States Parties by the 13th MSP
- Increase knowledge of the reasons why some States have not yet ratified the Convention.

- Increase awareness of the Convention.

### **Activities**

1. Hold bilateral exchanges, including at Ambassadorial level, with the Permanent Missions in Geneva of the Signatory States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the CCM, and engage with those States during other disarmament meetings.
2. Recirculate among all States Not Parties a survey on the reasons why they might not be in a position to ratify the CCM to better understand their particular circumstances and enable a better and personalised approach to them
3. Facilitate side events or speaking slots on CCM during disarmament meetings held in Geneva or in other cities hosting disarmament meetings.
4. Continue the activities of the Informal Working Group on CCM universalization to coordinate and improve outreach efforts, taking into account that universalization is a joint effort.
5. Involve bilateral embassies and multilateral delegations in the universalization work and ensure that CCM ratification is raised in political meetings and relevant high-level forums.
6. In coordination with the Presidency and the ISU, assist in facilitation of regional workshops to promote ratification/accession to the CCM.
7. Work with the Thematic Coordinator on National Implementation Measures on the provision of model legislation for possible use by certain States that do not possess cluster munitions and have not been contaminated by them.
8. With assistance from the ISU, approach legislative authorities of States Not Parties through the Inter Parliamentary Union.
9. Collaborate with CMC and the ICRC in their universalization efforts, including the promotion of their Ratification Toolkits.
10. Engage with the Treaty Section of the UN Office of Legal Affairs (New York) in order to include the CCM in the list of treaties to be highlighted for ratification at their “Treaty events”.
11. Approach regional organisations in an effort to raise awareness about the Convention and discuss possible avenues for joint outreach activities.

### **Target States**

- Signatory States that have yet to complete their ratification processes.
- States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention that have not yet acceded to the CCM and/or have shown an interest in joining.
- State party that initiated the withdrawal process.
- States Parties to the CCW Amended Protocol II and Protocol V.
- States that, at the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, vote in favour of the resolution on the “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions” that are not yet States Parties to the Convention.
- States Not Party to the Convention that have issued unilateral declarations in support of the Convention’s norms or have voluntarily submitted transparency reports or have taken interim steps.

### **Expected Outputs**

- No other withdrawal announcement prior to or during the 13 MSP

- At least one new State Party by the 13 MSP.
- Fact based understanding and analysis of the reasons why some States do not ratify the Convention
- Awareness raising of the Convention among the broader public.

### **Strategy Implementers**

- Peru and Norway Coordinators on Universalization;
- Malawi – former coordinator on Universalization and CCM State Party with leverage in Africa;
- Current CCM presidency (Philippines) and State Party with leverage and knowledge in Southeast Asia; Lao PDR – President of the 3 Review Conference, current ASEAN President and CCM State party with leverage and knowledge in Southeast Asia.
- The Informal Working Group on Universalization
- Thematic Coordinator on National Implementation Measures, Irak.
- The Implementation Support Unit;
- ICRC;
- CMC.
- Other mine action stakeholders.

### **Timeline of Activities**

#### **December 2024**

First meeting in the Informal Working Group on Universalization

Outreach during the BWC Meeting of States Parties

#### **January 2025:**

Meet with ISU and 13MSP Presidency to plan the work ahead for CCM universalization activities.

#### **February 2025:**

Second meeting in the Informal Working Group on Universalization

Meeting with the Secretary of IPU

#### **March 2025**

Meetings with target states

#### **April 2025**

Third Meeting in the Informal Working Group on Universalization

Meetings with target states

## **June 2025**

Fourth Meeting in the Informal Working Group on Universalization

Preparation of the universalization segment of the 13MSP Progress Report, based on the implementation of the workplan.

## **Overarching activities (December 2024 – September 2025)**

1. Outreach and focus on target States.
2. Assist in facilitation of regional workshops to promote ratification/accession to the CCM.
3. Preparation of the 13MSP Progress Report.
4. Bilateral exchanges with the Permanent Missions in Geneva of the States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the CCM.
5. Meeting with IPU.
6. Facilitate side events or speaking slots at Geneva disarmament meetings
7. Collaborate with the ICRC on the promotion of its CCM Ratification Toolkit.
8. Work with the Thematic Coordinator on National Implementation Measures on the provision of model legislation.
9. Collaborate with CMC and the ICRC in their universalization efforts.