



## **CCM Thematic Working Group on Transparency Measures**

### **WORK PLAN 2024 -2025**

**Coordinator:** AUSTRALIA

#### **1. Background to the work plan**

Transparency Reporting is an obligation under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and a vital indicator of the overall health of the Convention. It establishes a benchmark against which implementation progress is measured and evaluated. Transparency Reports are also a useful tool to facilitate international cooperation and assistance.

In accordance with Article 7 of the CCM, States Parties are obliged to report to the United Nations Secretary-General no later than 180 days after entry into force of the Convention through an initial transparency report and on an annual basis by 30 April each year thereafter. Reports are sent to the UN Secretary-General via email, cc to the CCM ISU.

States Parties committed to several actions regarding transparency reporting under the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP), reflected in Actions 43 to 46. Among other things, the LAP urges States Parties to:

- Provide their initial and annual transparency reports within the deadlines set in Article 7 of the Convention.
- Seek assistance with reporting where needed and for partners in a position to do so to lend assistance.
- Develop and endorse an amended reporting form.

#### *Recent trends in reporting*

The 12MSP in September 2024 noted a decline in annual reporting in 2024. A detailed breakdown of the information provided by States Parties in their annual Article 7 transparency reports is provided in the 12MSP Progress Report. As of December 2024, 59 of 104 States Parties submitted their 2023 Article 7 annual reports, 3 initial reports received, one was overdue, and 30 States Parties used the updated reporting form adopted at the 11MSP. A total of 106 States Parties had submitted their initial Article 7 transparency report as required by Article 7 of the Convention. Only 6 States Parties remain with overdue Article 7 initial reports.

Australia is pleased to serve another term as Coordinator on Transparency Measures until the 13MSP in 2025. We will continue to call on all States Parties, through our work plan, to make use of the updated reporting form adopted at the 11MSP, build synergies on transparency reporting with other conventional treaties such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), and conduct outreach to support States Parties with their initial or ongoing compliance with reporting obligations.

## **2. Objectives and expected outputs**

### *Objectives*

1. Promote increased rates of submission of annual reports.
2. Engage with the remaining six States Parties that have overdue initial transparency reports with the aim to increase the submission of initial reports ahead of the 13MSP.
3. Promote best practices on transparency reporting between the CCM and APMBC to build synergies across the two conventions.

### *Expected outputs*

1. Increased rate of submission of annual reports.
2. Progress on reporting ahead of the 13MSP by one or more of the States Parties yet to submit initial transparency reports.
3. Compilation of best practices on transparency reporting between the CCM and APMBC.

## **3. Implementation activities**

### *Strategy*

1. Follow up with States that have yet to submit initial transparency reports through bilateral outreach and with others, including the African Union, via Australia's diplomatic channels.
2. Work closely with the CCM ISU on a tailored communication plan to encourage and remind States Parties of their reporting obligations under the convention.
3. Collaborate with the 13MSP presidency and the ISUs of the CCM and APMBC to compile best practices on transparency reporting and identify possible synergies for further engagement.

## **4. Strategy implementers and potential implementation partners**

- Philippines, 13th Presidency of the CCM
- CCM Implementation Support Unit
- APMBC Implementation Support Unit
- APMBC Committee on Cooperative Compliance (Germany and Peru)
- States Parties to the Convention, especially delegations of the target States Parties
- African Union
- Australia's diplomatic networks
- UNODA
- Civil society including International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munitions Coalition.

## **5. Timeline of activities in the lead up the 13<sup>th</sup> MSP**

### *First Quarter of 2025*

- Hold an informal working group meeting with states that have particular interest in transparency reporting to brainstorm ideas and identify opportunities for enhancing engagement on transparency measures under the CCM.
- Conduct bilateral outreach to the States Parties that have overdue initial Article 7 transparency reports.
- Draft communication plan with the CCM ISU to encourage and remind States Parties of their reporting obligations under the convention.

### *Second Quarter of 2025*

- Stock-take of best practices and initiatives related to transparency reporting under the CCM and APMBC.
- Possible workshop or side-event on the value of transparency reporting under the CCM, and potential synergies with the APMBC, to be held during the week of the UN National Mine Action Directors Meeting from 9 to 11 April.
- Work on progress reporting for transparency measures.

### *Third Quarter of 2025*

- Report on outcomes from outreach including best practices related to transparency reporting to the 13MSP scheduled in September 2025.