



Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

Operation and Status of the Convention

Stockpile destruction

Wednesday 12th Sept 2012

GICHD Statement on the 'Cluster Munition Identification Tool'

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Accurate initial reporting of a state's stockpile of cluster munitions is critical for the success of a speedy, safe and cost effective destruction process. The aim of the Cluster Munition Identification software project has been to create a simple system that will allow managers and administrators with little technical knowledge to identify the types of cluster munition in their possession and to assess whether or not they fall within the categories banned under the CCM.

As opposed to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, where the definition of an anti-personnel mine is quite easily understood, definitions of Cluster Munitions, described in Article 2 of the convention, are somewhat more detailed. While these definitions may be understood by a technical expert who is experienced in the field and familiar with ammunition technical terms, the descriptions given can perhaps be not so easily understood to some countries or individuals lacking technical expertise and resources.

The aim of the CM ID tool is to provide a free, readily accessible and easy to use platform for state parties in need of identifying cluster munitions and to determine whether it is compliant or not to the CCM. The tool is unique as it consists of a searchable database of all known cluster weapons with pictorial guidance and the ability to identify cluster munitions by type and by weapon category.

Encouraged by the success of the CM ID tool module I (one?) that was first presented during the 2MSP in Beirut last year, a CM ID tool module II was initiated in January this year. The CM ID tool II is complimentary to module I of the CM ID tool and integrates a database providing an overview of types and combinations of explosive submunitions that can be carried by such cluster munitions. This addition can be used as a reference in cases which question whether ammunition used in conflict falls under the definitions set in Article 2 of the CCM.

Such an overview of ammunition that is banned by the CCM could assist in raising the stigma surrounding the use of such weapons in conflict. Operators involved in clearance operations or training of demining personnel would be able to utilise the CM ID tool as a conduit for easy access to necessary technical information on explosive submunitions.

Due to the intuitive design and the low technical threshold of the CM ID tool, civil society has already successfully made use of the system as a channel to information about ammunition banned by the CCM. Recently the CM ID tool has been used to identify the exact type of CM remnant in Syria. The CM ID tool can be found and downloaded free of charge from the GICHD web pages.

Thank you!