



ICRC

Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions Geneva, 2-4 September 2019

International Committee of the Red Cross Statement on Preventing and Suppressing Prohibited Activities (Article 9 of the Convention)

Mr. President,

The adoption of legal, administrative or other measures at national level to implement the key obligations of the Convention must remain a priority. The ICRC wishes to commend the diligent work conducted by New Zealand in its capacity as coordinator of national implementation measures.

Since the entry into force of the Convention in 2010, 31 States Parties have taken positive action to put in place the necessary national implementation measures, and 27 have reported that existing laws suffice to meet their obligations. In particular, we wish to congratulate Afghanistan on the adoption of specific law to implement the Convention over the past year.

Despite the achievement in this regard so far, there remains just over 40% of States Parties yet to take the required domestic measures to implement fully the Convention. Of these, around 19 have reported that they are under consideration or in the process of adopting legislation. The ICRC urges States Parties to address this challenge in a rigorous manner, mindful of the clear link between national legislation and compliance concerns.

For its part, the ICRC stands ready to continue helping States in developing their national implementing legislation. We will further work with National International Humanitarian Law Committees or similar inter-ministerial advisory bodies, which have been established by Governments in some 110 countries worldwide. If possible and where invited to do so, the ICRC can provide hands-on technical and drafting advice to governments, such as the legal drafting workshop organised by the ICRC with the government of Sri Lanka in January this year.

Finally, we will continue to refine the various tools we have created to assist States in the development of their national implementing legislation, including a model law, factsheets and an updated national IHL implementation database.

As always, the ICRC remains available to provide States with assistance and advice on implementing measures.

Thank you.