



Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

CCM Intersessionals 16.-19. April 2012

Transparency Measures

Genève, le 18 avril 2012

Mr. Coordinator

Let me thank the delegation of Belgium at this point for their long-standing and tireless efforts with regard to transparency measures, within both the CCM and other relevant fora. We would also like to thank you particularly for the consultations you held among interested delegations over the past months and express our gratitude also to all other delegations that have contributed to the current draft CCM Reporting Guide.

Why is it important to report?

As Switzerland has expressed on earlier occasions, the importance of transparency measures and particularly a regular, accurate and detailed reporting can hardly be overestimated. In our view, transparency is an important tool for supporting and assisting the implementation of the key-aspects of the Convention, as set out in Action #59 "*a tool to assist and cooperate in implementation*".

As food-for-thought for our discussion today, we would like to add some aspects in this regard (which was also indicated in our feedback on the draft reporting guide):

- Annual reporting on time and providing as much and substantial information as possible is certainly an important indication of a State Party's commitment to the Convention.

- Simultaneously, however, accurate and substantial reporting focused on essential aspects can support matching existing needs with available resources and thus optimise the resource allocation in the context of international cooperation and assistance. It is therefore important that the annual reporting does not only indicate achievements, but also quantifies and qualifies - to the extent possible - remaining challenges. This can ultimately enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of international cooperation and assistance activities.
- Accurate reporting right from the beginning can furthermore help to minimise possible delays and may allow the timely anticipation of possible problems. Potential flaws or threats to implementation activities (i.e. lack of resources, funds or coordination) can be addressed both by the respective States Party as well as the international community at an early stage. Accurate reporting can thus help meeting the deadlines set by the Convention (i.e. under Articles 3 and 4).
- The annual collection of information and subsequent reporting can also help the reporting States Party in coordinating national implementation activities. As the information requested covers all main aspects of activities in regard to cluster munition, the annual report has a catalytic function to enhance a holistic national view about the challenges of cluster munition; it can serve as a regular review and evaluation of the coordination among different actors (agencies, offices etc.) involved in the implementation of the different obligations under the Convention.
- Moreover, national reports can serve as valuable input for the development of best practices: substantial reports can highlight practical approaches to specific implementation aspects and may thus be an important source of information for other States Parties.
- Finally, annual reporting helps to identify and analyse general trends and patterns in relevant activities on the international, regional, national and local level. Therefore, it is not about singling out States Parties, but to raise awareness of global needs and challenges. The annual reports will serve as an important basis for policy makers, the Standing Committees of the CCM, donors and other stakeholders involved in the fight against cluster munition.

This list of aspects is, of course, by no means exhaustive. Yet it highlights the important linkage between transparency measures and the degree of success of the Convention's implementation.

Thank you very much.