

**Workshop on enhancing the implementation of Articles 3 & 4
of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in South East Europe:
The country coalitions concept**



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Notes for a presentation by Amelie Chayer, Acting Director, Cluster Munition Coalition

1. Thank you to RACVIAC, Germany, Implementation Support Unit for respectively hosting, convening and supporting this workshop.
2. Introduction Cluster Munition Coalition, network of non-governmental organizations in some 100 countries working to end the suffering caused by cluster munitions.
3. Convention on Cluster Munitions = best framework to comprehensively address the problem posed by cluster munitions.
4. Outline of obligations under Article 6, and commitments made under Dubrovnik Action Plan.
5. Country coalitions would be a way to ensure coherence in support and accountability in addressing the global cluster munition problem, for instance on clearance of contaminated land, destruction of stockpiles and addressing the needs of victims. The Cluster Munition Coalition sees country coalitions as effective collaboration among states to fully address the impact of cluster munitions.
6. Among affected states, national ownership is critical for effective partnering in country coalitions and we congratulate the many among you that are asserting national leadership and implementing a strong vision to complete clearance and/or stockpile destruction. Country coalitions such be country-specific in their approach, to address implementation needs as identified through plans and strategies developed by affected countries themselves.
7. Among states that are not affected, there are many who may be able to contribute financial resources to the ongoing tasks of clearance, stockpile destruction and victim assistance, through whatever modality may be most efficient. Some States that are not party to the Convention have also provided significant funding.
8. Those states that cannot contribute money can contribute expertise to country coalitions. There is a wealth of knowledge on clearance, stockpile destruction and assistance to victims that can be transferred to those states that may benefit from this experience.
9. Strong parallels can be drawn with the “Individualized Approach” of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, which aims to facilitate a platform for affected states to provide, on a voluntary and informal basis, detailed information on their challenges and needs, and offers an opportunity to connect with the donor community. This increased transparency and information exchange could help facilitate possible new partnerships towards completion of Convention obligations. (Excerpts from Concept Paper by Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/IWP/IM-June17/e->

[Individualized approach Committee Coop and Assistance.pdf](#)) The country coalition concept takes this one step further as those in a position to assist get organized to act.

10. The recent intersessional meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention showed great interest from states in how to better coordinate. Who would do it? A state or group of states must take the lead. The idea is not to duplicate existing structures or projects, but to draw lessons, to replicate and to enhance where appropriate. We have seen examples of effective country coalitions in the world of mine action. For example, last year, the United States and Norway partnered with Colombia to launch the Global Demining Initiative, soliciting and coordinating technical and financial support for mine action in Colombia.

11. This requires trust between partners, and the willingness to speak about challenges. The Convention on Cluster Munitions and Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention are known for being cooperative environments where openness and transparency are encouraged.

12. As many states – both donor and affected – face ever tighter budgets and competing priorities, generating the resources needed to clear cluster munitions and address the needs of victims will require greater efficiency and new approaches. Greater collaboration through country coalitions should be a useful tool to advance both.