



Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Concept Note

Background

Cluster munitions have killed and injured thousands of civilians during the last 70 years and continue to do so today. The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is a legally binding international treaty that seeks to eliminate the civilian harms caused by cluster munitions through a comprehensive prohibition of their use, production, stockpiling and transfer. The Convention requires States Parties to destroy their stockpiled cluster munitions within 8 years, to clear contaminated land under their jurisdiction within 10 years, to submit transparency reports and enact as a matter of priority national legislation to implement the Convention.

A solid commitment to international cooperation and assistance to allow States Parties to implement their obligations was also central in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the CCM in 2008. The Convention therefore strongly relies on transparency, efficient cooperation and constructive assistance between all CCM stakeholders. States adhering to the Convention can request assistance based on their specific needs and challenges through, for instance, the “Country Coalitions” approach developed by Germany in its capacity as President of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties and benefit from existing good practices, tools and resources aimed at increasing partnerships, facilitating cooperation and ensuring the full implementation of obligations.

The Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) adopted by States Parties at the First Review Conference in September 2015 aspires to have 130 States Parties by the Second Review Conference in 2020, which is less than two years away. As of June 2019, 120 States have committed to the goals of the CCM, of which 106 are States Parties and 14 are signatories.

2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the CCM and during this period a significant number of States from every region of the world have become Parties to the Convention. Notwithstanding the progress achieved in the pursuit of the universal acceptance of the Convention, much remains to be done to meet the DAP’s goal. Europe, Africa and the Americas are the regions with the highest universalization rates while adherence to the CCM in Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific is yet to reach the expected level of ratification and accession. Increase in adherence with the Convention especially in Asia Pacific would be critical in reaching its 130 States Parties target by 2020.

Purpose

The workshop aims to give signatory States and States not Party in the region the opportunity to discuss the challenges faced in the ratification or accession process and to exchange concrete ideas on ways to address these and thus accelerate adherence. In this regard, signatories and States not Party will be invited to provide updates on their progress and plans for ratification of or accession to the Convention. Resources and expert advice on the Convention's key operational obligations and on national ratification/accession and domestication will be made available to participants during the meeting.

This interactive workshop builds on past efforts such as the "Cooperating to implement the CCM: The country coalition concept" Seminar held in Bangkok in March 2017, the Pacific Conference on Conventional Weapons Treaties held in Auckland in February 2018 as well as other regional initiatives.

It is hoped that by the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM that will be held in Geneva from 2 to 4 September 2019, a good number of Asia-Pacific States that attended the Manila workshop will have become full States Parties to the Convention. The workshop is organized by the government of the Philippines in collaboration with New Zealand and with the support of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit.

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