

# Quarterly Newsletter

1 October - 31 December 2021

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

2021 CCM Resolution adopted

First CCM intersessional meeting since 2015 planned for 2022

Bosnia & Herzegovina establishes country coalition with Germany

New NIM video and LAP booklet



## CCM at UNGA 76



10MSP President, Ambassador Aidan Liddle, hosted a lunchtime informal exchange on 18 October 2021 to discuss universalization and implementation of the CCM with ASEAN Member States. The event took place at the UK Mission in New York in the margins of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 76) First Committee. Representatives of the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU) were also present to provide technical support to the President. During the meeting, Ambassador Liddle outlined the main priorities of the UK Presidency in the lead up to the 10MSP - universalization of the CCM, innovative finance strategies for mine action and completing tasks related to the effective functioning of the Convention machinery.

He also made reference to the 2021 UNGA Resolution on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which was submitted by the United Kingdom and co-sponsored by members of the Coordination Committee. Twelve delegates from 9 ASEAN States-2 of which were CCM States Parties, 1 Signatory and 6 States not Party - participated in the lively discussion that ensued.

The UNGA adopted the Resolution on 6 December 2021 with a vote of 146 in favour, 37 abstentions and 1 against. Most notably, China, a State not Party which had voted Abstain in all previous CCM Resolutions, changed its position to vote YES in 2021.



#### **Voting Result:**

**IN FAVOUR AGAINST** 

**37 ABSTENTION** 

## Implementation of 10MSP Presidency priorities



In its capacity as the Presidency of the 10MSP, the United Kingdom, delivered demarches in capitals through 30 of its diplomatic missions globally to reach out to States not yet party to the CCM. Furthermore, Ambassador Aidan Liddle continued to meet with Signatory States and States not Party to promote universalization of the Convention.

Together with the HALO Trust, the UK co-hosted a virtual side event on innovative finance in the margins of the 19MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) on 18 November 2021.

The UK also co-hosted a workshop on Innovative Finance for Mine Action with the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) that was held in Phnom Penh on 30 November 2021 to explore if some of the alternative finance models identified could be



implemented in the Cambodian mine action context.

It was decided at the Second Review Conference of States Parties (2RC) that each annual MSP would decide whether to convene an intersessional meeting during the ensuing annual cycle. The 10MSP President has taken the decision to hold a CCM intersessional meeting in 2022, the first one since 2015. Preparations and discussions on the meeting have commenced. While the dates and venue have not been determined, the meeting is expected to be held for two days during the first half of 2022. More information on the intersessional meeting will be made available through the CCM social media platforms.

#### ISU mission to New York



An ISU team travelled to New York to interact with the representatives of a selection of States Parties, Signatories and States not Parties participating in the UNGA 76 First Committee sessions from 18-22 October 2021. The main objective of the mission was for the ISU to continue to engage on CCM universalization and implementation with States that are either not represented or are under-represented in Geneva but usually have capital-based representatives participating in UNGA First Committee sessions. In addition to that, the ISU was requested to provide technical and other

support to the United Kingdom in its role as the 10MSP President.

During the mission, the ISU met with the identified States either at Permanent Missions or at the UN headquarters. In total, the ISU had bilateral consultations with representatives from approximately 20 States, which included the 9 ASEAN States that participated in the lunchtime meeting, as well as Bangladesh, Burundi, Gambia, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Nepal, Palau, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, and Yemen.

### Focus on Bosnia & Herzegovina country coalition



A working lunch meeting in Geneva was organized by the ISU on 4 November 2021 to discuss the country coalition that has been established between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Germany in support of the former's cluster munition clearance efforts. In attendance were Mr. Saša Obradović, Director of Bosnia & Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC), Mr. Igor Babić of the Permanent Mission of Bosnia & Herzegovina, as well as representatives of Germany and

Montenegro, CCM Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance, Guyana and Sweden, CCM Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Education, and the CCM ISU. In February 2021, Bosnia & Herzegovina was granted an 18-month extension of its Article 4 deadline up to 1 September 2022 and informed during the meeting that it was on track to fulfil its clearance obligations by the extended deadline

## Meeting on cooperation & assistance



On 1 December 2021, Germany and Montenegro, in their capacity as CCM Article 6 Coordinators, organized an informal exchange between the thematic CCM and APMBC Committees on best practices with regard to international cooperation and assistance for States Parties

with timebound obligations, and where possible, to avoid extension requests. Relevant CCM Coordinators and APMBC Coordinating Committee members, the Conventions' ISUs and civil society representatives participated in the insightful and timely discussion.

## Update on Article 3 and 4 implementation

Despite having faced challenges due to COVID-19 restrictions and other obstacles, Bulgaria, Peru and Slovakia have recently informed that they were well on track to comply with Article 3 (stockpile destruction) obligations by their respective deadlines. Currently, no Article 3 extension request is expected to be submitted in 2022. With regard to Article 4 (clearance) implementation, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Germany and Lebanon have also communicated their expectations to comply by their respective Convention deadlines.

Since early 2020, the ISU have been holding virtual informal exchanges with States Parties with timebound CCM obligations to give these States the opportunity to update the ISU on their progress and challenges in their implementation of the Convention. During the quarter under review, the ISU met with Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Guinea-Bissau and Iraq. During its meeting, Iraq conveyed its plans to submit a request to extend its Article 4 deadline of 1 November 2023 as required at least nine months prior to the 11MSP, which is expected to take place in September 2023.

#### New NIM video



New Zealand, CCM Coordinator on National Implementation Measures (NIM), has produced a short video to give an overview of State Party obligations under Article 9 of the Convention. In the video, New Zealand outlines the various NIM tools available to facilitate the implementation of the CCM domestically by States Parties. To date, 32 States Parties have reported to have adopted specific national legislation to implement the Convention, while 12 of these states have also outlawed investments in cluster munition production.

Visit the <u>CCM website</u> to watch the video as well as to view the collection of available NIM tools and national laws that implement the CCM.

#### LAP booklet



At the 2RC Part 2 in September 2021, the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) was adopted with the aim of supporting significant and sustainable progress towards the universalization and implementation of the Convention in the period 2021-2026. While not a legal requirement, the actions set forth in the LAP are meant to assist and provide guidance to States Parties in the implementation of the Convention. Each of the fifty actions is also accompanied by one or more indicators to monitor progress and identify challenges in their

implementation.

With the kind contribution of the UK Government, the LAP has been published in booklet form for easy reference and can also be accessed or downloaded on the <u>CCM website</u>. Currently, only the English version has been made printed with the Arabic, French and Spanish versions expected to be ready by the end of the first quarter of 2022.