

Quarterly Newsletter

1 July - 30 September 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

10MSP successfully held

Guinea-Bissau declares Article 3 compliance

11MSP President outlines priorities

LAP booklet now in 4 languages



In-person 10MSP held successfully



The Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (10MSP) was held from 30 August to 2 September 2022 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva and gathered 426 delegates from 74 States Parties, 8 Signatory States, 14 States not Parties and numerous international organizations or institutions. Presided by H.E. Mr. Aidan Liddle, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Conference on Disarmament, the 10MSP was the first fully in-person formal meeting of the CCM since 2019 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. It was also the first meeting to formally assess the implementation of the Convention as guided by the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) since its adoption at the Part 2 of the Second Review Conference (2RC) in September 2021.



Opening addresses were delivered via video by the Minister of State for the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), H.E. Mr. Graham Stuart; UN Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards, Mr. Daniel Craig; UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu; and Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) representative and Director of the Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organization (IADO), Mr. Muowffak Al-Khafaji.

The 10MSP President; the representative of the host nation Switzerland, H.E. Mr. Félix Baumann; and the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mr. Gilles Carbonnier delivered their opening remarks in person.



On the evening of 30 August 2022, 10MSP participants were invited to a temporary exhibition "Who cares? Gender and Humanitarian Action" at the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, followed by a reception. The event was hosted by the Permanent Representatives of Switzerland and the United Kingdom to the Conference on Disarmament, the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and the Administrative Council of the City of Geneva.



During the 4-day meeting, States were given the opportunity to reiterate their commitment to the norms of the Convention, condemn recent use of cluster munitions, provide an update on their implementation of the CCM and exchange views on a variety of matters. One of the highlights of the 10MSP was the announcement made by the Minister of Defence of Guinea-Bissau, Hon. Marciano Silva Barbeiro, to confirm that after verification activities his country did not possess any cluster munitions in its armouries. This statement was further strengthened by the Minister's submission of Guinea-Bissau's Article 3 Declaration of Compliance.



A delegation of Mine Action Fellows consisting of 22 youth from around the world were facilitated by Mines Action Canada and the governments of Canada and Switzerland to participate in the 10MSP. The Fellows participated fully in the Meeting by engaging delegations on the different thematic areas of the Convention. On the last day of the 10MSP, the Fellows made a statement in which they urged States to work towards the universalization of the CCM and pledged their commitment to support States in achieving the goal of ending suffering caused by cluster munitions.

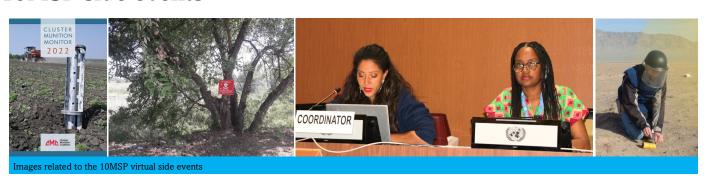




The 2RC agreed to set a term limit of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU) director position as 4 years, renewable once for another 4 years. As such, the 10MSP was the last time the ISU Director, Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba, would participate in a formal meeting of the CCM in that capacity. Ms. Mweemba has been the ISU's first director since its establishment in May 2015. The Meeting thanked her for her leadership and support to the Convention and the 10MSP President, speaking on behalf of the States Parties, commended her for being an absolute stalwart of the Convention. The President acknowledged that the progress made in implementing the CCM in recent years could be attributed in no small part to her efforts, expertise and commitment—including her good sense of humour. The 10MSP agreed and adopted the calendar and selection procedure for the recruitment of future ISU directors as well as the updated Terms of Reference (ToR) of the director's position.

Documents and statements, as well as video recordings, of the 10MSP can be found on the <u>CCM website</u>. The advance version of the Final Report of the meeting can be accessed <u>here</u>.

10MSP side events



Four side events were held in the margins of the 10MSP. A briefing on the 2022 *Cluster Munition Monitor* following its launch on 25 August was held on 30 August during which civil society experts presented key findings from the report and discussed how states and mine action actors are addressing ever-growing challenges in a year plagued by cluster munition use in Ukraine.

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and the Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS) held an event that focused on the environmental protection measures incorporated into the LAP. Specifically, mine action organizations presented the practical measures already taking place and outlined steps needed to improve environmental outcomes across mine action activities.

The International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Permanent Mission of France, Permanent Mission of Namibia, and Gender and Diversity Working Group organized an event to showcase recent achievements and plans for gender and diversity mainstreaming in the CCM.

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) held a side event to share views and experiences on civil society actions against cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and their humanitarian impact in Laos, Iraq and Ukraine.

11MSP Presidency





At the end of the 10MSP, H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq, was confirmed as the President of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties (11MSP), to take place from 11 to 14 September 2022 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. In his first address as 11MSP President, Ambassador Hashim Mostafa outlined the priorities of the Iraqi Presidency, which include enhancing the universalization of the Convention with a focus on Signatory States, the Middle East and

other underrepresented regions; adapting the Article 7 reporting forms in accordance with Action 45 of the LAP; and overseeing the selection process of the next ISU director.

The 10MSP also designated H.E. Mrs. Francisca Elizabeth Méndez Escobar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico, as the President of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties (12MSP) scheduled to take place in 2024.

2022-2023 Coordination Committee



11MSP President: Iraq
12MSP President-Designate: Mexico
Immediate Past President (10MSP): United Kingdom

General Status & Operation	France & Belgium	Universalization	Spain & Malawi
Stockpile Destruction	Bulgaria & the Netherlands	Clearance & Risk Education	Guyana & Norway
Victim Assistance	Chile & Austria	International Cooperation & Assistance	Germany & Lebanon
Transparency Measures	The Gambia	National Implementation Measures	New Zealand

ISU and 10MSP Iraqi delegation collaborate



On 2 September 2022, the CCM ISU hosted a working dinner for the Iraqi delegation that participated in the 10MSP to discuss the implementation of the Convention by Iraq, with a focus on the preparation of its Article 4 extension request and the potential establishment of a country coalition to facilitate the full compliance of Iraq's CCM obligations. The meeting concluded with an agreement to meet again virtually to continue the discussions.

The working dinner was attended by Mr. Nibras Fakhir Matrood, Director of the Iraq Regional Mine Action Centre – South (RMAC-South), Mr. Raed Hlaichi, Director of International Cooperation Section of the Directorate of Mine Action of Iraq (DMA), Mr. Haitham Alqans, Director of Operation of RMAC-South, Mr. Tareq Al-Musawi from the Victim Assistance Section of RMAC-South, and Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari, Second Secretary of the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

Iraq has a 1 November 2023 deadline to comply with its CCM Article 4 obligations and should submit its extension request no later than December 2022.

Of particular note, Iraq was the only country at the 10MSP that reported to include a cluster munition victim in its delegation. Mr. Tareq Al-Musawi's participation at the 10MSP was made possible by the Convention's Sponsorship Programme through the generous financial contributions of Canada, Slovakia and Switzerland. The Sponsorship Programme is managed by the ISU in collaboration with the GICHD, with the aim of facilitating diverse participation at CCM meetings.

Extension requests considered at the 10MSP

Four extension requests were presented, considered and granted at the 10MSP.

Bulgaria, which had been on track to comply within the deadline, reported on an explosion that occurred at a factory of the contractor company that led to a disruption of its stockpile destruction operations for 13 months. Bulgaria was given a further 15-month extension up to 31 December 2023.

Chile, which conducted technical surveys that reduced its contaminated area by 52.4%, was granted an additional extension of 4 years up to 1 June 2026 to conduct clearance and destruction of its cluster munition remnants.

Chad, which had cleared and released its last known area contaminated by cluster munitions in October 2021, submitted an extension request in order to survey an area that was previously inaccessible to verify if cluster munition contamination exists in that area. The 10MSP granted Chad a 13-month extension until 1 October 2024 to mobilize resources and conduct non-technical survey.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was previously on track to completing its clearance activities by its deadline of September 2022, had discovered new locations confirmed to be contaminated with cluster munitions. It was granted a further 12-months extension up to 1 September 2023 following the submission of its clear and detailed work plan in July 2022.

ISU support visit to Guinea-Bissau



The CCM ISU held meetings in Guinea-Bissau from 2 to 4 August 2022 to discuss the implementation of the Convention's provisions with the national authorities in Bissau and to reaffirm its support to ensure that the State Party was compliant with its Article 3 (stockpile destruction) obligations.

The team met with Hon. Marciano Silva Barbeiro, Minister of State for the Ministry of Defence and the Homeland of Freedom Fighters, who reiterated the commitment of Guinea-Bissau to its obligations under the Convention. The ISU Director recalled that Guinea-Bissau had been very active during the Oslo process that led to the adoption of the CCM and was one of the first States to sign the Convention in Oslo when it opened for signature on 3 December 2008.

The ISU was accompanied to the meeting by Mr. Nautan Mancabu, Director of the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI) and Mr. Joaquim Merca, Technical Coordinator with the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in Bissau. The ISU team took the opportunity while in Bissau to discuss in depth with CAAMI staff the outstanding obligations of Guinea-Bissau under the CCM.

The ISU team also met with Dr. Augusto Nhaga, Secretary of State for Homeland Freedom Fighters. The Secretary of State assured that Guinea-Bissau would do its utmost to verify all information regarding Guinea-Bissau's CCM implementation and declare compliance as soon as possible.

LAP booklet in 4 languages



The Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) was adopted by CCM States Parties at the conclusion of the Second Review Conference (2RC) in September 2021 to serve as a five-year guide for the implementation of the Convention up to the Third Review Conference (3RC), which is scheduled to take place in 2026.

With the generous contribution of the UK Government, the LAP has been published in booklet form and is now available in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Arabic, which can be accessed or downloaded on the CCM website.