

Frequently Asked Questions



Why should my country join the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)?

To exhibit global solidarity with affected States, abide by humanitarian principles and help build momentum towards a truly universal norm against cluster munitions. 121 States have already joined the Convention.

But my country does not have any victims, stockpiles or contamination...

For States with no cluster munition survivors, stockpiles or contamination joining the Convention is a simple process. Such States need to implement two key provisions of the Convention: adopt a national implementation measures (Article 9) and provide an initial transparency report followed by short annual transparency reports (Article 7). Annual transparency reports for States Parties with no obligations under articles 3, 4 and 5 only take 2 minutes to complete.

What if my country cannot meet its obligations within the stipulated deadline?

Each State Party is required to destroy its stockpiles of cluster munitions (Article 3) under its jurisdiction and control within 8 years of becoming a party to the Convention and clear (Article 4) its territory of unexploded submunitions within 10 years. While all cluster munitions-affected States Parties must do their best to respect their Article 3 and 4 deadlines, the Treaty allows States Parties that are unable to do so to request initial deadline extensions.

Why should my country join when others in the region have not?

States can pursue simultaneous ratification/accession processes across a specific region and/or reach out to existing regional and sub-regional entities to advance adherence.

What will it cost my government to join the CCM?

The Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (ISU CCM) was established in May 2015 to support and coordinate the work of the Convention. At the First Review Conference, States Parties adopted a funding model for the ISU whereby States Parties commit to contributing towards its annual budget. States Parties' annual contributions are calculated in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment and prorated across the number of CCM States Parties. For example, a State Party with a UN scale of 0.005 will pay approximately CHF 60 annually.

What must my country do to join the Convention?

By submitting an instrument of ratification or accession to the UN Secretary-General, who is the Convention's depositary.

What assistance is available to States Parties to implement its CCM obligations?

Article 6 of the Convention stipulates that, in fulfilling its obligations under the CCM, each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance. Similarly, each State Party in a position to do so shall provide technical, material and financial assistance to affected States Parties to facilitate the implementation of their obligations.

A limited Sponsorship Programme, which facilitates attendance at annual Meeting of States Parties and other formal meetings of the Convention, is available for affected and low income States.

The Convention also has a Country Coalition initiative which offers an effective framework for ensuring national ownership and long-term commitment by donors/partners and is adapted to the particular needs of the State needing assistance.

A wide range of internet resources can be found on the Convention's website at: www.clusterconvention.org. Resources available include:

- A ratification kit;
- A model national legislation for small states that do not possess cluster munitions and are not contaminated by them;
- A model legislation for common-law States;
- Reporting templates.

What can I do to raise awareness about the CCM when is not a priority for my government?

Successful strategies outlined by States that have joined the Convention include:

- Designate a focal point for all CCM-related issues in capital;
- Focus on decision making levels: politicians, parliamentarians and technicians in stakeholder ministries;
- Set up a multi-disciplinary CCM task force or committee to improve coordination amongst national stakeholders;
- Organize broader consultations domestically with members of the civil society, the academia, scientists and the local communities;
- Incorporate the CCM into the agenda of different meetings;
- Use national IHL Committees - if any - to promote the CCM;
- Engage with regional and sub-regional entities involved in the CCM;
- Participate in regional or subregional events on the CCM;
- Contact the ISU CCM, the Coalition on Cluster Munitions (CMC) and/or the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for technical assistance, in depth briefs on the Convention, visits to capital, organization of workshops, and sharing of best practices and tools.

For more information

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