



28 June 2019

To all CCM States parties

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the 9th Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

As you know, article 14 of the Convention states that the “costs of the Meetings of States Parties, the Review Conferences and the Amendment Conferences shall be borne by the States Parties and States not party to this Convention participating therein, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment adjusted appropriately”.

The cost estimate for the 9th Meeting of States Parties was adopted last year at the 8th Meeting of the States Parties. Based on the approved cost estimate, in December 2018 States Parties and observer States were billed on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessment pro-rated taking into account the number of States participating in the Meeting. Unfortunately, there is a shortfall in the collections, with an amount of 59'473 USD still outstanding. Consequently, the 9th Meeting of States Parties, originally scheduled to take place from 2 to 4 September 2019, cannot be organized as planned.

The current financial situation was already discussed at an emergency meeting that took place on 12 June 2019. On that occasion, the Coordination Committee had decided not to translate four pre-session documents in all UN official languages. Following the breaking of the silence procedure, that decision had to be withdrawn and alternative solutions explored.

The situation was discussed further at the Coordination Committee meeting that took place on 26 June 2019, when, in light of the unresolved financial shortfall, I proposed to conduct the second day of the September Meeting (3 September) without interpretation and to resume interpretation in all six official languages on 4 September 2019. Following the endorsement of the Coordination Committee and further bilateral consultations, I have instructed the Secretariat to proceed accordingly.

Consequently, the Meeting of States Parties will take place from 2 to 4 September 2019, but interpretation in all six UN official languages will only be provided on 2 and 4 September 2019. I trust in the cooperation of all States to maximize the time we have during those days to make full use of interpretation.

The revised version of the draft annotated programme of work to be adopted on the first day of the 9th MSP, is attached to this letter and will be issued as CCM/MSP/2019/4.

Furthermore, to cover for the remained unpaid balance, it has been decided that pre-session and post-session documents will be submitted for translation only upon availability of funds. Consequently, some documents will be initially issued in the language of submission and will be translated when funds be made available. This may cause delays in the issuance of pre-session documentation in all six official languages. In turn, these delays in the issuance of pre-session documentation may also cause delays in the issuance of the final report of the meeting in all official languages.

I cannot stress enough, the urgency of adopting financial measures that will ensure the sustainability of the Convention going forward. Last year, in the context of considering the financial status of the Convention, the 8th Meeting of the States Parties mandated me to prepare a document for consideration at the 2019 Meeting of States Parties, in consultation with the Coordination Committee, on possible measures to address financial predictability and sustainability.

I am working on this document, and – as per the mandate received- I am also taking into account discussions held in other disarmament conventions. The outcome of this work will be issued as a pre-session document of the 9th Meeting of the States Parties and will hopefully lead to the adoption of tangible financial measures in the final report of the Meeting to avoid the recurrence of similar situations in the future.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez

President of the 9th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
(9MSP)

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