



Quarterly Newsletter

1 October - 31 December 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

2022 CCM UNGA Resolution

Iraq submits its Article 4 extension request

Mauritania establishes country coalition with France



CONVENTION
ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS



11TH MEETING
OF STATES PARTIES
11 - 14 SEPTEMBER
GENEVA 2023

Arab region roundtable discussion



Roundtable discussion with countries of the Arab region in New York

On 18 October 2022, an Arab region roundtable discussion on “Peace Building and Development through Disarmament Conventions” was hosted by the Republic of Iraq, in its capacity as the Presidency of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties (11MSP). The meeting was held at the UN Headquarters in New York in the margins of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 77) First Committee on Disarmament and International Security.

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hussein Bahr Al-Uloom, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations in New York opened the round table and expressed his gratitude to the participants attending and discussing the main provisions of the Convention. The 11MSP President, H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations in Geneva, addressed the participants via video conference. He highlighted that the Iraqi presidency, in accordance with its priorities related to universalization, would pay particular attention

to the Arab-speaking region. He informed that the presidency was preparing to host in early 2023 a CCM workshop in Iraq for the Middle-East and North Africa which aimed to enhance dialogue on international cooperation and assistance on the issue of explosive remnants of war (ERWs) and to exchange experience and ideas to support peace and security in the region.

The meeting that gathered 15 of 22 states from the Arab region was organized by Iraq with the support of the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU). The ISU, Spain, in its role as a CCM Coordinator on Universalization, and the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) delivered presentations on the work of the international treaty that strives to prevent and mitigate the humanitarian impact caused by cluster munitions. This was followed by a constructive dialogue on the impact of the implementation of disarmament treaties on peace and development in the region.

2022 CCM UNGA Resolution



UNGA session to vote for the 2022 UNGA CCM Implementation Resolution

Voting Result:

IN FAVOUR	144
AGAINST	1
ABSTENTION	37

The 2022 Resolution on the “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions” was submitted to the 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 77) by the United Kingdom in its capacity as the President of the Tenth Meeting of States Parties (10MSP), with the support of the current states represented in the CCM Coordination Committee (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, France, Germany, Guyana, Iraq, Lebanon, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and Spain).

The draft Resolution was approved by the UNGA First Committee on 1 November 2022 with a vote of 145 in favour, 35 abstentions and 1

against. This was a record achievement for the Resolution at the First Committee level since the introduction of the CCM Resolution in 2015.

On 7 December 2022, the UNGA adopted the Resolution with a final vote of 144 in favour, 37 abstentions and 1 against. Only one State not Party to the CCM, Russia, voted against the Resolution. On a positive note, Myanmar, a State not Party, voted in favour of the Resolution for the very first time having previously abstained. It had voted Abstain in all previous CCM Resolutions. Also noteworthy is that China, another State not Party, had maintained its Yes vote following a positive change in its voting pattern in 2021.

ISU mission to New York

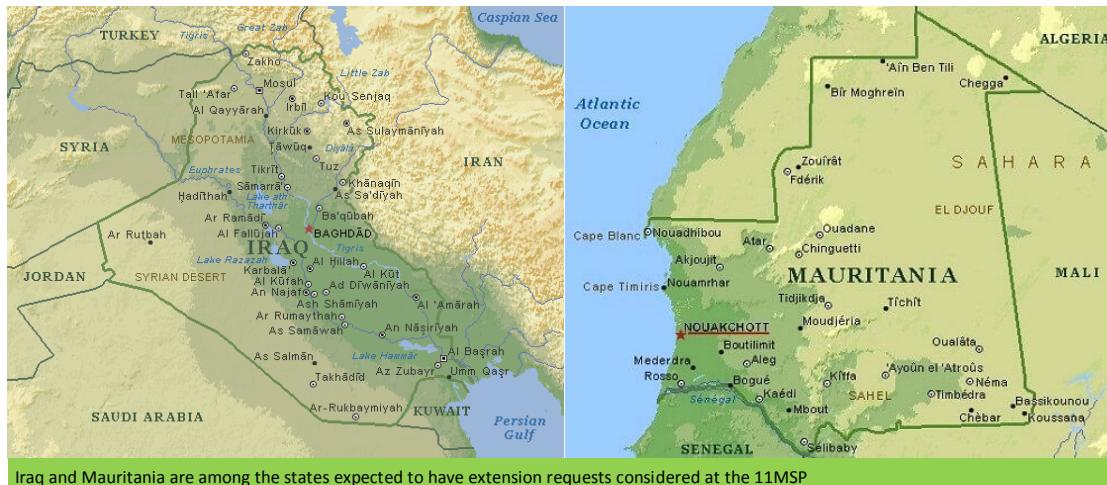


Bilateral meeting on universalization at the UN Headquarters in New York. From left to right: Mr. Juan Manglano of Spain,

ISU Director, Ms. Sheila Mweemba, and Implementation Support Specialist, Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi, where in New York from 17-21 October 2022 to leverage on the presence of the wider disarmament community to promote the implementation of the CCM during the UNGA 77 First Committee sessions. In addition to providing technical and logistical support to the organization of the Arab regional roundtable discussion hosted by Iraq, the ISU team also provided support to CCM thematic Coordinators in the execution of their mandate.

The ISU representatives also conducted bilateral meetings with several states to follow-up on a number of issues particularly with those that are either unrepresented or underrepresented in Geneva. It also used the opportunity to engage with Signatories and States not Parties to get additional information on their ratification or accession to the Convention. Based on these objectives, the ISU had bilateral consultations with representatives of more than 25 states during the mission, including Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Congo, Djibouti, Guinea, Indonesia, Jamaica, Libya, Mozambique, Nepal, Palau, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,

Updates on extension requests



On 16 November 2022, Iraq submitted a request to extend its CCM Article 4 deadline of 1 November 2023. The ISU notified States Parties to the Convention of Iraq's request on the same day and made the document available on the [CCM website](#). The Article 4 Ad hoc Analysis Group—comprising of Germany, Guyana, Lebanon and Norway, supported by the ICRC, CMC, GICHD, Mine Action Review and NPA — met on 1 December 2022 to assess the request and sent its feedback to Iraq to help Iraq strengthen its request.

On 6 December 2022, Mauritania informed the ISU of its intention to submit a request to extend its current Article 4 deadline of 1 August 2024. In line with the “Guidelines for the CCM Article 4 Extension Requests” adopted by the 8MSP, the 11MSP President will provide a report with an accompanying draft decision on the extension requests. The requests will be considered at the 11MSP, which is scheduled to take place 11-14 September 2023.

Mauritania establishes country coalition with France



French and Mauritanian representatives at the 10MSP in September 2022

A working lunch meeting in Geneva was organized by Germany and Lebanon, in their capacities as CCM Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance, to discuss the country coalition established between Mauritania and France. Mauritania had begun this journey by meeting with potential operators and donor states in September 2021. In November 2021, France indicated its interest in exploring the possibility of cooperating with Mauritania to assist the latter in its cluster munition clearance efforts.

In attendance at the meeting held on 24 November 2022 were H.E. Mr. Mohamed El Habib BAL, and Lt-Col. Mohamedou Mohamed Laghdaf, Coordinator of the National Humanitarian Demining Program for

Development (PNDHD) of Mauritania, Amb. Yves Marek and Ms. Inès Mensah of France, Ms. Anna Mikeska and Ms. Irmgard Adam of Germany, Mr. Ahmad Soueidan of Lebanon, Ms. Martine Gernez, HAMAP– Humanitaire Director and the ISU Director, Ms. Sheila Mweemba.

Mauritania had declared compliance with CCM Article 4 in September 2013 but discovered 36 km² of previously unknown cluster munition contamination in 2019. At the 2nd Review Conference (2RC) Part 2 in September 2021, Mauritania was granted an extension up to 1 August 2024. Mauritania intends to request for another deadline extension at 11MSP in September 2023.

ISU involvement in other workshops



11th South Asian Regional Conference on IHL in Kathmandu, Nepal

The Government of Nepal and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mission in Kathmandu co-hosted the 11th South Asia Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) from 31 October to 2 November 2022 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The theme of the Conference was "Bringing IHL home: A focus on weapons, means and methods of warfare".

The aim of the event was to strengthen dialogue and collaboration between states on IHL-related matters through sharing best practices and showcasing achievements in domestic IHL implementation. The Conference gathered around 30 high-level government officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, as well as experts from the ICRC and other organizations, including the CCM ISU represented by its Director, Ms. Sheila Mweemba.



The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), in cooperation with the Center for Humanitarian Demining Training in Benin (CPADD), held a workshop for the Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme (FRCP) in Ouidah, Benin, from 12 to 15 December 2022. The Francophone programme aims to increase regional cooperation and the sharing of good practices to equip participants with a better capacity for humanitarian response.

The workshop brought together representatives from 7 national authorities, and several operators and UN agencies from the Sahel and West Africa regions. The CCM ISU, represented by Ms. Elaine Weiss, had the opportunity to inform the participants of how the Convention supports efforts in preventing and mitigating the effects of cluster munition contamination.