



UK Mission
Geneva



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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CCM African Regional Universalization Workshop

Background Paper

Introduction

Cluster munitions have killed and injured thousands of civilians during the last 70 years and continue to do so today. The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is a legally binding international treaty that seeks to eliminate the harm caused to civilians by cluster munitions through a comprehensive prohibition of their use, production, stockpiling and transfer. The Convention requires States Parties to destroy stockpiled cluster munitions within 8 years, to clear all contaminated land under their jurisdiction or control within 10 years, to submit transparency reports and to enact as a matter of priority national legislation to implement the Convention.

A solid commitment to international cooperation and assistance to enable States Parties to implement their obligations was also central in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the CCM in 2008. The Convention therefore strongly relies on transparency, efficient cooperation, and constructive assistance among and between all CCM stakeholders. States adhering to the Convention can request assistance based on their specific needs and challenges through their transparency reports or the “Country Coalitions” approach developed by Germany in its capacity as President of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties (7MSP). They can also benefit from existing good practices, tools and resources aimed at increasing partnerships, facilitating cooperation, and ensuring the full implementation of obligations. If States Parties are unable to clear contaminated areas or to destroy stockpiled cluster munitions, they can submit extension requests prolonging the original deadlines.

The Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) adopted by States Parties during Part 2 of the Second Review Conference held in September 2021 underlined the urgent need for further efforts to promote the norms established by the Convention. As of 22 February 2022, 123 States have committed to the goals of the CCM – 110 as States Parties and 13 as Signatories. Forty-three (43) of the fifty-four (54) African countries have committed to the treaty, demonstrating the African continent’s strong commitment towards a region free of cluster munitions. However, 9 African Signatory States still must ratify it over a decade after the Convention’s entry into force, while only 11 African States remain to accede to the Convention.

African States have the opportunity to be one of the first regions to be declared free of cluster munitions. Leadership from Africa to ban cluster munitions will once again send a strong message against any use of these weapons, thus saving lives and livelihoods around the world. Joining the Convention is achievable, and support is available to enable States to meet their obligations - whether it is the implementation of national measures, annual transparency reporting, victim assistance, stockpile destruction or clearance of cluster munition remnants.

1 August 2022 will mark 12 years since the CCM entered into force and during this period a significant number of States from every region of the world have become Parties to the Convention. Notwithstanding the progress achieved in the pursuit of the universal acceptance of the Convention, much remains to be done to meet the LAP’s goal. An increase in adherence to the Convention

especially in the African region would be critical to intensify efforts to promote the observance of the Convention's norms and achieve its universalization.

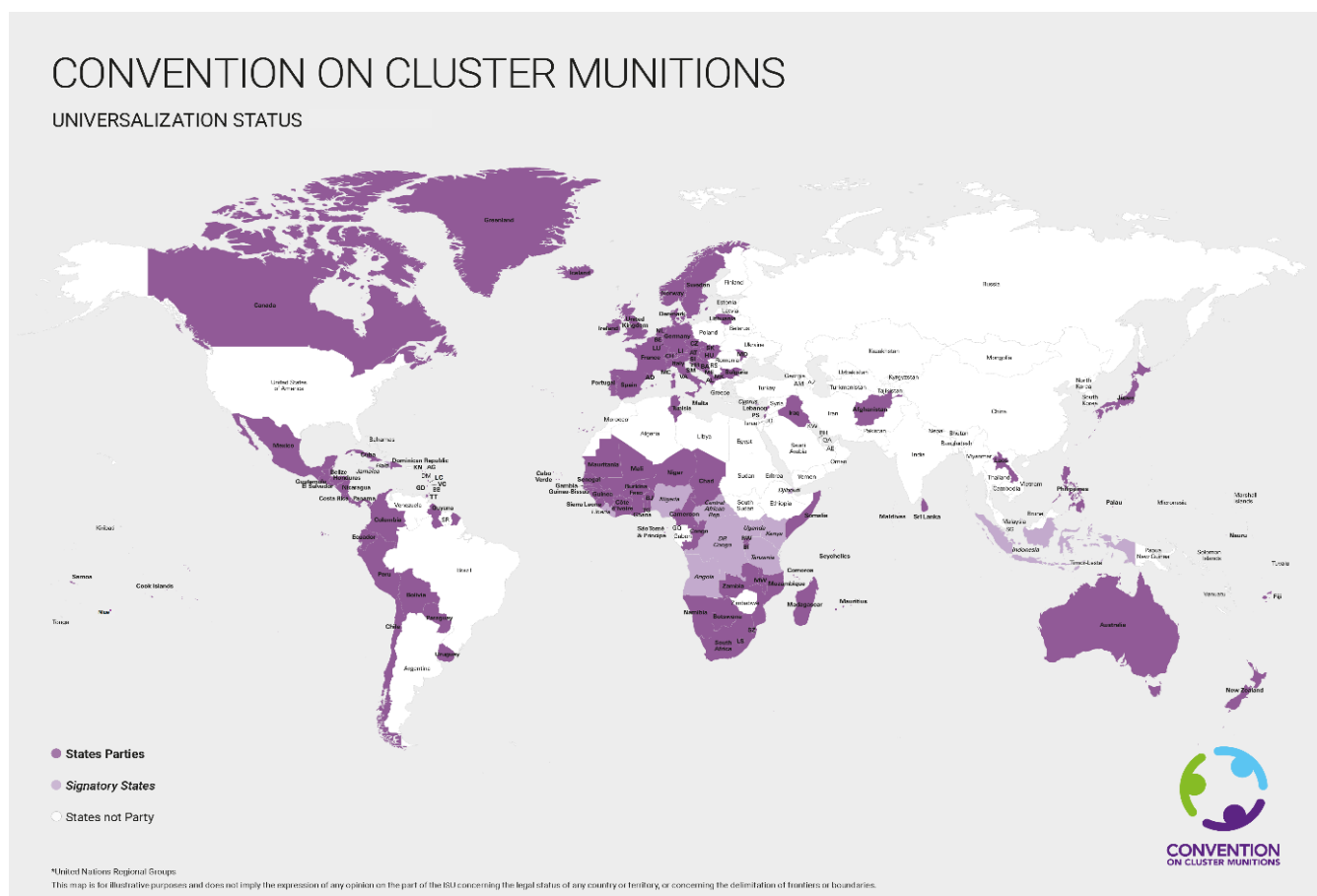
Purpose

The workshop builds on past actions such as the declarations from the Accra (2012) and Lomé (2013) meetings, the 2016 Addis Ababa *Commitment on universalization and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions* and the *CCM Ratification Seminar* held in Kampala, Uganda, 29-30 May 2017.

The workshop aims to give the remaining 9 African Signatory States and participating States not Party the opportunity to discuss the challenges faced in the ratification/accession process and to exchange concrete ideas on ways to address these and thus accelerate adherence. In this regard, participating State representatives will be invited to provide updates on their progress and plans for ratification of/accession to the Convention. Resources and expert advice on the Convention's key operational obligations and on national ratification and domestication processes will be made available to participants during the meeting.

The objective is that by the 10th Meeting of States Parties (10MSP) to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 30 August to 2 September 2022, at least a good number of the African States that participate in the Abuja workshop will have become States Parties to the Convention.

The workshop is organized by the Government of the United Kingdom with the support of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and co-hosted by the Governments of Nigeria and Switzerland.



STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE CCM IN AFRICA (22 February 2022)

States Parties	Signatory States	States not Party
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benin 2. Botswana 3. Burkina Faso 4. Burundi 5. Cameroon 6. Cape Verde 7. Chad 8. Comoros 9. Congo 10. Côte d'Ivoire 11. Eswatini 12. Gambia 13. Ghana 14. Guinea 15. Guinea-Bissau 16. Lesotho 17. Madagascar 18. Malawi 19. Mali 20. Mauritania 21. Mauritius 22. Mozambique 23. Namibia 24. Niger 25. Rwanda 26. Sao Tome & Principe 27. Senegal 28. Seychelles 29. Sierra Leone 30. Somalia 31. South Africa 32. Togo 33. Tunisia 34. Zambia 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Angola 2. CAR 3. Djibouti 4. DRC 5. Kenya 6. Liberia 7. Nigeria 8. Tanzania 9. Uganda 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Algeria 2. Egypt 3. Equatorial Guinea 4. Eritrea 5. Ethiopia 6. Gabon 7. Libya 8. Morocco 9. South Sudan 10. Sudan 11. Zimbabwe