

**CARICOM Regional Workshop  
on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)  
St George's, Grenada  
March 3-4, 2020**

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**THE ST. GEORGE'S COMMITMENT ON UNIVERSALIZATION  
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER  
MUNITIONS**

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**Background:**

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is a legal instrument which prohibits all use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions. It establishes a framework for cooperation and assistance to ensure adequate assistance to survivors and their communities, clearance of contaminated areas, risk reduction education, and destruction of stockpiles.

Eleven representatives of Caribbean State Parties participated in the Workshop. Six states Parties (Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago), two Signatory States (Haiti and Jamaica) and three States not Party (Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Lucia).

These representatives convened in St George's, Grenada on March 3 – 4, 2020 at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Grenada in collaboration with the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (ISU-CCM) and the Caribbean Coalition for Development and the Reduction of Armed Violence (CDRAV). The Governments of Canada and Switzerland provided support for the workshop.

The participants discussed the Convention on Cluster Munitions from a regional perspective and examined challenges and solutions to joining the 2008 Convention. Furthermore, it explored ways of helping states to undertake efforts towards ratification or accession in the lead up to the Second Review Conference of States Parties that will take place in November 2020 in Switzerland.

Member States of CARICOM have played a strong role in promoting multilateralism, and have advocated for peace, security and development for our people and the Region. Participants acknowledge the important role the region can play by contributing to the universalisation of the Convention.

Participants agreed on the need to stay in close touch in the lead up to Second Review Conference of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions that will take place in November 2020 in Switzerland and committed to undertake the following actions :-

Acknowledging the political commitment of CARICOM in the promotion of the Caribbean as a zone of peace, States expressed their support for cooperative and collaborative efforts in the following actions in line with the norms outlined in the Convention:

### **To universalize the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

We the States commit to increase adherence to the Convention and to promote the universalization of the Convention through continued outreach and engagement with States not party in all appropriate fora.

We will endeavour to take every opportunity at national, regional, hemispheric and global fora to reinforce the norms being established by the Convention so that there is a marked decrease in reported, alleged and confirmed instances of use, with the objective to bring to an end the suffering and adverse humanitarian impact and effect caused by cluster munitions.

### **To advance cooperation and assistance**

We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen partnerships at all levels by communicating challenges and seeking assistance at a regional and international level to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

At the country level, we endeavour to demonstrate a high-level national ownership in fulfilling the Convention's obligations.

The States will endeavour to utilise the available human, financial and material resources to efficiently implement these obligations.

### **To promote Convention compliance**

We will endeavour to participate more fully in the work of the Convention and reaffirm our commitment to the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

### **To ensure national implementation**

We encourage the enactment of new legislation or the review of existing national legislation.

Also acknowledging the common challenges transcending CARICOM States in ratifying/acceding and implementing the obligations of the Convention, participants

present expressed their support for the recommendations below to enhance universalisation and effective implementation of the Convention goals:

1. Sensitisation on importance of ratification/accession of CCM at all levels domestically (especially the high levels), including Parliament
2. Designation of a national focal point to coordinate the implementation of the CCM
3. Improving coordination amongst national stakeholders
4. Engaging CARICOM Secretariat and Civil Society on the promotion of the Convention
5. Mobilisation of resources at national, regional and international levels
6. That all CARICOM Member States leverage the CCM Sponsorship Programme funds to facilitate participation at the Second Review Conference of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions that will take place from 23 to 27 November 2020 in Lausanne, Switzerland.