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Final Report of the African Regional CCM Universalization Workshop

23 - 24 March 2022 - Abuja, Nigeria

REPORT SUMMARY

The *Africa Regional Convention on Cluster Munitions Universalization Workshop* was held at the Sheraton Abuja Hotel, in Abuja, Nigeria, from 23 to 24 March 2022. Representatives from eight of the nine Signatory African States and two States not Party supported by four African States Parties met to discuss CCM universalization and implementation in the region. The workshop co-hosted by the governments of Nigeria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom was organized with the logistical and technical support of the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU). United Kingdom in its role as the Presidency of the 10th Meeting of States Parties to be held in August 2022 and Switzerland as the immediate past president of the CCM Second Review Conference (2RC) also participated in the workshop. Workshop resource persons were representatives of the United Kingdom, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the ISU.

The workshop presented an opportunity to promote the universalization of the CCM to all African Signatory states and a few selected States not Party as they are considered as likely members since most of them are states that have never produced, used, possessed cluster munitions and/or been contaminated by them with only a few reporting to have cluster munition contamination and/or holding small stocks. This workshop provided the platform for the States to further their understanding of the Convention and discuss challenges and solutions to joining and implementing it with the anticipation that this would help Signatory and States not Parties undertake the necessary efforts towards ratification or accession in the lead up to the 10th Meeting of States Parties of the Convention (10MSP) scheduled to take place from 30 August to 2 September 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The workshop provided a brief as well as an in-depth overview of the Convention's key provisions and outlined the extensive range of technical support, tools and resources available to assist States not yet party in their ratification or accession process and implementation of the treaty thereafter. Three of the four African States Parties present were invited to share their experiences in overcoming obstacles to joining and implementing the Convention. Signatory and States not Party in attendance were also invited to give updates on the status of any plans to join the Convention and shared the specific obstacles and challenges faced in doing so. Resources and expert advice on the Convention's key operational obligations and on national ratification and domestication were provided to the participants throughout the two days. A military-to-military exchange session strictly open to military personnel only was held on the afternoon of Day 2 of the programme.

The workshop ended with each state represented sharing its one key takeaway from the workshop to aid it in moving forward the national status on Universalization and Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

BACKGROUND

Cluster munitions have killed and injured thousands of civilians for more than 70 years and unfortunately continue to do so today as their use has been observed in recent conflicts. The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) 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 all contaminated areas, risk education, and destruction of national stockpiles.

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.

The main objective of the African Regional Workshop was to better understand and assist the remaining nine (9) African Signatory States and the participating States not Party overcome any obstacles and/or challenges faced in national ratification processes and the subsequent implementation of the Convention. This also provided an opportunity for African states to extend universalization efforts further across the continent and reaffirm the prominent role that Africa played in the process that led to the banning of cluster munitions. The workshop used the opportunity to follow up on commitments and statements made at previous CCM regional meetings, such as the Addis Ababa Universalization Workshop in 2016 and the Kampala Ratification Workshop in 2017, as well as at previous Meetings of States Parties. It is hoped that by the Tenth Meeting of States Parties (10MSP) scheduled for August 2022, a good number of the African States that attended the workshop in Nigeria will have become States Parties to the Convention.

The workshop was attended by 14 African States - eight of the nine African Signatory States (Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda), two States not Party (South Sudan and Zimbabwe) and 4 States Parties (Botswana, Cameroon, Mozambique, and Zambia). The United Kingdom and Switzerland as well as the Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU) also participated in the workshop.

Resources and expert advice on the Convention's key operational obligations and on national ratification and domestication processes were made available to participants during the workshop which had interactive sessions included in the programme. There was also a closed session focused on a military-to-military dialogue which was specifically for the military representatives at the workshop.

Opening Session: Welcoming address and discussion on the objectives of the workshop

A welcoming statement on behalf of the host country was delivered by the representative of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Nigeria, followed by the statements of H.E. Ambassador Aidan Liddle, President of the 10th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (10MSP), and Mr. Lukas Schifferle, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. at the Embassy of Switzerland in Nigeria. A letter from Ms. Margaret Arach Orech, Ambassador for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) was also circulated to the participants on behalf of the ICBL-CMC (Cluster Munition Coalition).

In the opening statement read on his behalf by **Mrs. Olu Mustapha**, Director, Joint Services Department of the Ministry, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Nigeria extended a warm welcome to all participants and expressed his gratitude to the United Kingdom for the organization of the workshop. The Permanent Secretary recalled that the Workshop had originally been scheduled to take place in March 2020 but was postponed due to the global health crisis occasioned by the COVID-19 Pandemic and its associated international travel restrictions. He reiterated that although Nigeria did not have any stockpile of cluster munitions and none were currently being used by any of its defence and security services, as one of the African Signatories States, it was fully committed to the Convention’s obligations and its adherence process. In this regard, he informed that Nigeria was in the process of becoming a State Party through ratification and that a Council Memo on the ratification of the CCM had been presented to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) for approval, following which the Instrument of ratification would be transmitted to the depository of the United Nations. He concluded with the declaration that Nigeria hoped to be a State Party by the 10MSP in September 2022 and encouraged the other participating countries to also become States parties by the 10MSP.

Ambassador Aidan Liddle, of the United Kingdom in his role as president of the CCM 10MSP expressed his gratitude to Nigeria and Switzerland for partnering with the UK to co-host the workshop originally scheduled for March 2020 but had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He congratulated the Government of Nigeria on its resolve to move forward on the ratification of the Convention. He expressed his thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence of Nigeria for their hard work in bringing the participants together. He also thanked the ISU team for its hard work in the organization of the workshop.

Ambassador Liddle pointed out that the workshop was aimed at encouraging further adherence to the Convention in the Africa region to support its universalization. He noted that the goal of universalization remained one of the most difficult to achieve in the work of the Convention. He restated that the goal of universalization was very important to strengthen the norm against the use of cluster munitions. He informed that the Convention already had 110 States Parties and its membership was increasing each year. The ultimate objective of the Convention was to end the use of cluster munitions in the world, and that could only be achieved when all UN member states adhered to the Convention. The African region represented a large part of UN Member States and would be vital to achieving the universalization goal.

Ambassador Liddle highlighted the grim fact that cluster munitions had been used in recent times, such as in Libya, Syria, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Ukraine. He outlined that universalization was important in stigmatising the use of these horrible weapons. He further reasoned that the military benefits considered as justification for the use of cluster munitions could be achieved in different ways. Therefore, the international community decided to back the humanitarian impact of cluster munition use during and after conflicts. These disadvantages were far from enough to justify any military benefit that might be attained by using cluster munitions. Ambassador Liddle also highlighted the overwhelming votes received in support of the annual CCM UNGA resolution which called for the ban of cluster munitions and the stigmatization of their continued use.

The 10MSP President acknowledged that there were some barriers faced by States such as the related financial costs and legal undertakings that were a hindrance to their becoming States Parties. He pointed out that the participants in the regional workshop were there to explore these barriers as well as to identify possible solutions to overcome those barriers. He highlighted that the CCM was a cooperative Convention and that by joining, States became part of a community that would work together to achieve the goals of the Convention.

Mr. Lukas Schifferle, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. at the Embassy of Switzerland to Nigeria, Chad, Niger and ECOWAS, representing Switzerland in its role as workshop co-host and 2RC Presidency, thanked Nigeria for its warm hospitality and for co-hosting the workshop which he noted was a testimony of its long-standing and steadfast commitment to promoting peace and addressing challenges in the field of disarmament and humanitarian action. He further noted that the universalization of the CCM was a crucial objective and that with every new country that joined the Convention, the global norm rejecting this weapon was reinforced and the protection of civilians strengthened. He highlighted that there were clear and direct benefits for any State to join the treaty as States Parties of the Convention became part of a community comprising States Parties, international organizations and civil society that cooperate and meet regularly to discuss how to make progress as efficiently and effectively as possible. States Parties thus benefitted from the experience and expertise of other stakeholders that included the ISU and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), which both contributed immensely to the implementation of the CCM. He reiterated that the provision of cooperation and assistance was not just a lofty ideal but a main component of the Convention which was effectively pursued among the States Parties. He also informed that was in this spirit that Switzerland had just adopted a new Arms Control and Disarmament Strategy, in which mine action is a key element in the pursuit of the vision of a world without new victims of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

In a written statement, **Ms. Margaret Arach Orech**, ICBL Ambassador underscored the importance of universal adherence to the CCM as being critical to the promotion of international humanitarian norms and the protection of civilian populations globally. She noted that though 43 African states had signed the Convention, nine of them still needed to ratify it and emphasized that with the ratification of Liberia and Nigeria, the west African region would have fully joined the Convention. Ms. Orech bemoaned the catastrophic and long-lasting effects of cluster munitions on human, economic and environmental resources. She added that unfortunately, this terrible legacy was recently repeated in several countries. She underscored the power that states had to stop manufacture and use of cluster munitions

thus safeguarding lives. She further recalled the important role that the African nations had played in the Oslo Process and reminded them that their voice was critical to strengthening the international norm prohibiting use of cluster munitions, respect for international humanitarian law, and protection of civilians everywhere. She concluded by urging participants to work with their governments and make all efforts possible to join the Convention without delay.

Session 1: Overview of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba, Director of the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU), started her presentation with a brief recount of the Convention's history followed by an overview of its key provisions and achievements to date. She introduced the CCM as a humanitarian disarmament treaty that contained preventative measures through its prohibitions; remedial measures through stockpile destruction, clearance, and victim assistance; and cooperative approaches to implementation through multi-level partnerships. Ms. Mweemba outlined the key operational obligations of the Convention and the status of their implementation. She pointed out that the key obligations of the Convention would be explained in detail in the subsequent sessions that day. The Director concluded her presentation by explaining the Convention's machinery, the ISU's mandate, and some of the resources and information that are useful to States on the CCM website.

Session 2: Key Articles under the CCM

The objective of this session was to provide a more detailed examination of some of the Convention's operational obligations: stockpile destruction (Article 3), clearance (Article 4), victim assistance (Article 5) and reporting (Article 7).

Representative of Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) **Mr. Aksel Steen-Nilsen** in his presentation on **stockpile destruction** under Article 3 of the Convention illustrated how compliance is achieved relatively easily through collaborative efforts. He explained how NPA's Self-Help for Ammunition Destruction Operations Worldwide (SHADOW) programme which was complementary to industrial options which were usually not available to many states and provided for an option that could deal with small quantities, unusual or unstable ammunition in many countries. He highlighted that the SHADOW concept was founded on in-country solutions, modelled for self-help, national ownership, tailored to its partner's resources and needs, capacity-building, local employment and investment, minimal facilities requirement, and minimal transportation. It also focused on minimising adverse environmental impact. He explained the different phases of the process and how in the end there was accountability and traceability of the destroyed stockpile of cluster munitions.

Mr. Steen-Nilsen then presented on **clearance** of cluster munition remnants as espoused under Article 4 of the CCM. He showed how over the last decade the area clear of cluster munition contamination had grown with a new annual record made in 2020 as a global total of 135.1 square kilometers was cleared of cluster munition remnants (CMR). He added that 110,000 unexploded submunitions were destroyed during clearance, survey, and spot tasks in the same year and that two States Parties to the CCM – Croatia and Montenegro – had fulfilled their Article 4 obligations in 2020. He gave an overview of how surveys are done with a

particular emphasis on the Cluster Munition Remnant Survey (CMRS) which a method developed and in use since 2010 in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Lebanon. He informed that the result of the NPA CMRS process was to either to release land as there was no threat or prioritize it for clearance.

Presenting on **victim assistance**, Article 5 of the Convention, **Ms. Elaine Weiss**, Implementation Support Assistant of the ISU, started by defining who a victim of cluster munitions is. She highlighted that the CCM was the first multilateral treaty to make the provision of assistance to victims of a specific weapon a formal obligation for all States Parties. Furthermore, the Convention set the highest standards for victim assistance in a treaty of international humanitarian law. After outlining the provisions of Article 5, Ms. Weiss explained that victim assistance was a long-term obligation that continued well after clearance operations had completed. She pointed out that Article 5 also recommended States Parties to incorporate relevant guidelines and good practices. She referred to the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) and the Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance as useful guides to sustainable implementation of this obligation.

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi, Implementation Support Specialist at the ISU, presented on **transparency reporting** as required by CCM Article 7. He provided a practical overview on reporting obligations with a thorough explanation on the two types of transparency reports to be submitted by States Parties: initial and annual. To this end, States were guided through the key elements of the standard reporting formats and provided participants with information on the support available to facilitate this obligation. The presentation further focused on the importance of timely and qualitative reporting as an indication of a State Party's commitment to the Convention. Mr. Al-Juhaishi emphasized that reporting was also an opportunity to access available resources through international cooperation and assistance as described under Article 6 of the Convention.

Session 3: Addressing national ratification and domestication of the CCM

Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), **Mr. Leonard Blazeby**, made a presentation on the process of being bound to the Convention and noted that there were two principal steps to **ratification/accession**. The first was action by the national authorities (at the national level by parliament or executive depending on domestic procedures) and secondly, notification to the depository (Instrument of ratification or Instrument of accession to be deposited with the treaty's depository, UNSG). He exhibited models on ratification and on accession that the states could use. He also explained that a state could immediately be bound to the Convention before entry into force of the CCM by simultaneously depositing a Declaration of intent with the instrument of ratification or accession. An example of this document was shared with the participants for their consideration. He also elaborated on what actions States Parties are required to undertake in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention. Mr. Blazeby elaborated on the elements to consider in the development of national implementation legislation including penal sanctions. He also outlined the various types of support to states provided by the ICRC and provided participants with some of the useful tools developed by the ICRC.

Session 4: International Cooperation and Assistance: Available resources and how to access them

The session commenced with a presentation by the ISU Director, Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba, on international cooperation and assistance provisions contained in Article 6 of the Convention, how to request cooperation and assistance, and other existing mechanisms and tools available to States. This was followed by a presentation by Ambassador Liddle on the case of the United Kingdom as a provider of international cooperation and assistance to mine action projects worldwide. He also spoke on a UK initiative on innovative financing as an approach to bridge the funding gap for mine action. Mr. Aksel Steen-Nilsen of NPA gave a presentation on his organization's involvement in various country coalitions around the world.

Ms. Sheila Mweemba highlighted that Article 6 stipulates that States Parties in a position to do so should provide the technical, material, or financial assistance to States Parties affected by cluster munitions through different avenues. Article 6 also requires cooperation between States Parties giving and receiving assistance to ensure full and prompt implementation of agreed assistance programmes. Reference was made to Actions 38 to 42 of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) adopted at the 2RC in 2021 by the CCM States Parties and elaborated on what the actions aimed to achieve. The Director also introduced the CCM concept of Country Coalitions which aimed at the strengthening of partnerships in the individual country context. States Parties requiring international cooperation and assistance were encouraged to do so through Article 7 reporting, participation in Convention Meetings, the establishment of country coalitions, and timely communication of such needs to CCM thematic coordinators or the ISU. Ms. Mweemba also gave examples of the civil society organizations that were a valuable resource to States and informed that many of them had good in-country networks, more leverage in certain circumstances and that they provided training to States. In conclusion, she drew the States' attention to the multiple resources including the ratification/accession toolkit, model legislation, reporting templates and other CCM-related publications that could be found on the Convention's website.

Representing the United Kingdom, **Ambassador Aidan Liddle** reported that the UK had been consistently providing cooperation and assistance to many countries worldwide in the clearance of cluster munitions, landmine and other explosive remnants of war, as well as to risk education and other activities. These projects were conducted under the UK Government's Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP). Referring to Action 38 of the LAP, which encourages states to explore alternative and/or innovative sources of funding, Ambassador Liddle informed that there was huge gap between how much donor countries could commit to in mine action and the actual financial need on the ground. This shortfall could not be met even if donor states were to increase their funding significantly. Therefore, it was necessary to explore other sources of funding, which would also reduce the strain on donor states. To this end, the UK had been exploring the concept of innovative finance for mine action. He reported that the UK had recently hosted workshops on this topic in Cambodia and Wilton Park and expressed his hope that a pilot project would soon move forward in Cambodia. He concluded that innovative finance was not a one-size-fits-all approach but could help to bridge the gap in mine action funding and tap into the potential of corporate funding.

Mr. Aksel Steen-Nilsen shared examples of the various Country Coalitions/partnerships that Norwegian People's Aid had engaged in over the years with several CCM States Parties and some States not Party. These ranged from assistance with improvements to Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM), stockpile destruction under Article 3 to survey and clearance operations in several countries. He highlighted that the key elements of these partnerships were national ownership, close and effective cooperation and collaboration, and transparent discussions and sense of common ownership. These were strengthened by a clear division of roles and responsibilities of the partners and an enabling environment for mine action.

Session 5: The experience of Botswana, Cameroon and Mozambique in adhering to and implementing the CCM

The aim of this session was to allow invited African States Parties to share their experience in joining and implementing the Convention to encourage and support States still to join to follow their example.

Brigadier Molatlhegi Ntelamo, Commander, Defence Logistics Command of the Botswana Defence Force shared the experience of Botswana in the implementation of its CCM Article 3 obligations. He reported that on entry into force of the Convention for it, Botswana had had a stockpile of two types of cluster munitions - CB – 250 – K Cluster Bomb and M921 Mortar Bomb - kept for training purposes. He emphasized that despite Botswana having the cluster munitions in its inventory, it had never used the munitions inside or outside its borders and were earmarked for destruction in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention by 1 June 2019. He explained that because there was no technical capacity nationally to destroy the stockpile in an environmentally friendly manner nor the necessary finances, Botswana established a country coalition with Norwegian People's Aid through its SHADOW programme to meet its CCM obligation. This approach called for NPA to carry out an initial Verification Feasibility and Assessment (VFA) in October 2017 with the purpose of gathering information in support of decision-making for SHADOW to inform the Research and Development (R&D) and the planning phases, as well as promote NPA's role and functions under the SHADOW operations. The Botswana Defence Force was responsible for provision of ground logistics requirements. Through this collaboration, Botswana successfully destroyed its stockpile to comply with CCM Article 3 a year ahead of deadline. He concluded by observing that the success story of Botswana's disposal of cluster munitions was a testimony that cooperation within the Convention should inspire states yet to ratify or accede to the CCM to do so as soon as possible.

In his presentation, **Mr. Manuel Carlos**, a Minister Counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique, informed that Mozambique had signed the CCM on 3 December 2008, ratified it on 14 March 2011 and the Convention entered into force for it on 1 September 2011. He illustrated how Mozambique through international cooperation and assistance from partners such as Norwegian Peoples Aid, had managed to complete the destruction of its cluster munition stockpiles in December 2016, three years ahead of its Article 3 deadline. Similarly, through such partnerships had also completed clearance of cluster munition remnants in December 2016 which was 5 years ahead of its 2021 deadline. He also reiterated that his country had diligently submitted its initial transparency report on 9 July 2012 and all

its annual transparency reports thereafter up to its 2019 annual report in 2020. Furthermore, Mozambique had taken the necessary legal administrative and other measures to implement the CCM nationally which included the imposition of penal sanctions provided through its existing legislation, the Penal Code of Mozambique, that it considers as sufficient to implement the CCM.

Ms. Christine Gaelle Ebongue Manga, Foreign Affairs Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, began her presentation by outlining that her country had signed the CCM on 15 December 2009 and ratified it on 12 July 2012 after parliamentary authorization, granted to the President of the Republic. She informed that the national legal framework applicable to the control of the prohibition of cluster munitions in Cameroon integrates, on the one hand, the laws and regulatory texts in force and the international legal instruments ratified by Cameroon, on the other hand. She gave the four laws that Cameroon has enacted to implement the CCM and other similar international treaties. Ms. Manga reported that there were four Institutions involved in monitoring the ban on the use of cluster munitions in Cameroon and these responded in accordance with the competences assigned to it. She highlighted that in accordance with CCM Article 9, some of the national measures employed to implement the Convention and increase awareness included a radio program on disarmament-related education hosted by MINDEF and recurring seminars on International Humanitarian Law.

Session 6: Updates from delegations on status regarding the CCM

The purpose of this session was to give the representatives of CCM Signatory states and States not Party an opportunity to provide an update on their current position and plans to ratify or accede to the CCM or their status of implementation of the Convention. It was also an opportunity for all state participants to share challenges encountered, lessons learnt, best practices and to learn from the experience of others as well as seek clarification or advice from one another or from the various resource persons present. In this context, the representatives of the eight Signatory states and the two States not Party shared information on their respective national processes related to the ratification of/accession to the Convention.

Most of the states reported that lack of sufficient information on the Convention especially at decision-making levels was one of the major obstacles to finalizing ratification/accession national processes. These obstacles were dealt with in depth at the following session. Another topic that generated extensive discussion that kept coming up was on the need to apply as much pressure on the states still producing cluster munitions as was being put on non-producing/buyer countries.

Session 7: Group Work – Exchange of ideas on how to best overcome obstacles to the ratification/accession and practical implementation of the CCM

Participants were divided into five groups to discuss in detail the individual opportunities and challenges that were faced in the ratification/accession process and to thereafter identify possible ways to overcome these. The participants were divided into linguistic groups - 4 English and 1 French – and each comprised a mix of representatives of at least one CCM State Party, Signatory state and State not Party for a broad exchange of views.

Each group was given the following questions for discussion:

1. What are your country's perceived challenges to CCM ratification/accession?
2. What could be the possible solutions to these challenges?
3. How can external actors assist you in this process?
4. List the types of support each country needs in completing ratification/accession.
5. What are the recommended next steps as a country, region, continent?

Session 8: Report back from the Group Work

The following were the top three elements identified in response to each of the five questions posed for the group discussion. The full list of responses is attached to this report as Annex 1.

Q1 - Challenges

1. Lack of knowledge or awareness of the Convention
2. Lack of political will
3. Bureaucratic obstacles

Q2 - Possible solutions

1. Identify the ministry/institution to be responsible for ratification/accession follow-up
2. Build up institutional memory
3. Stakeholder collaboration

Q3 - External Assistance needed

1. Holding of sensitization workshops to increase knowledge especially amongst senior government officials
2. Greater collaboration amongst states to exchange experiences
3. Hosting of regional events to raise awareness

Q4 - Types of support needed for ratification/accession

1. Training and technical capacity building
2. Sensitization at all levels of government (parliamentarians, policy makers, etc)
3. Follow up by the CCM machinery

Q5 - Recommended next steps

The participants were asked to identify possible next steps at three levels to enhance CCM ratification/ accession in Africa.

National

1. Increase inter-ministerial coordination and designation of focal points
2. Encourage goodwill at the top levels of government – advocate for political will
3. Improve on communication sharing

Regional

1. Inclusion of the CCM on the agenda of regional meetings
2. Host follow-up workshops
3. Encourage action amongst high level government officials

Continental

1. Annual conference on the CCM in collaboration with the African Union
2. Inclusion of the CCM on the agenda of continental meetings
3. Greater inclusion of States not yet party in the various meetings of the Convention

Sessions 9: Military to Military Dialogue

Participation was restricted to military representatives only and was held under Chatham house rules. The main objective of such a dialogue is to promote the humanitarian goals of the Convention and to demonstrate the shared positive intentions of most States towards these goals. The session aimed to provide an opportunity for an open, frank, and impartial exchange of views on the perceived benefits and disadvantages of cluster munitions. Such an open and transparent Military-to-Military dialogue on cluster munitions could provide considerable benefits since cluster munitions are, unfortunately, still perceived as effective weapons with strategic value by some States not Parties.

On the other hand, the military of CCM States Parties could explain how they are able to fulfil their defence tasks without cluster munitions in their inventory, which are prohibited by the Convention, and substantiate why the humanitarian aspect prevailed in their consideration to join the Convention. This was also an opportunity to share how State Parties managed to destroy their cluster munitions stockpiles as required by Article 3 of the Convention and at the same time promote actions that could be considered to directly contribute toward decreasing the potential humanitarian harm of cluster munitions.

The lively session was co-chaired by Brigadier Ntelamo and Mr Steen-Nilsen with the technical support of the 10MSP President, ISU Director and ICRC to clarify provisions and enhance understanding of the Convention and its objectives.

Session 10: Next steps to achieve ratification/accesion and implementation of the CCM

The session was moderated by Ambassador Liddle who initiated a *tour de table* that saw each country share its one key take away from the workshop. These ranged from having gained a better understanding of the Convention to learning from the experiences of others and the need for consistent follow-up on states still to ratify/accede. Some countries noted that they now had a clearer idea of how to proceed nationally while others requested the support of the CCM presidency and the Implementation Support Unit to raise awareness in their various capitals. Some of the French speaking countries also requested that more workshops should be held for Francophone Africa which seemed to be lagging behind in understanding the Convention.

Closing Session: Summary and closing remarks

Representing the host country Nigeria, Director of the International Organisations department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Ambassador Samson Iteboje** expressed appreciation to the Governments of the United Kingdom and Switzerland, the current and immediate past President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions for their support in co-hosting the Workshop as well as for their leadership of the CCM during the past few years. Ambassador Iteboje applauded the Nigerian Ministry of Defence for the important role it played in the organization of the Workshop as the focal Ministry for the Convention on Cluster Munitions. He also commended the ISU that had coordinated the organization of the workshop and for the excellent job it was doing of following up on the ratification process among Signatory States to the CCM. As such he believed that a good number of African Signatory States were now in a better position to fast track the process to become State Parties to the Convention. He further noted that the dangers of cluster munitions cannot be over-emphasized as they posed an immediate threat to civilians during conflict by randomly scattering submunitions or bomblets over a wide area and continued to pose a threat post-conflict by leaving remnants, including submunitions that failed to explode upon impact and thus becoming de-facto landmines. He reiterated Nigeria's commitment to the Convention and its objectives.

In his closing statement, **Ambassador Aidan Liddle** reiterated his thanks to the gracious host Nigeria, as well as to Switzerland, for co-hosting the successful event. He highlighted that the workshop marked a big step towards ridding the world of cluster munitions. He expressed his confidence that the workshop would lead to more ratifications from African states in the coming months to become full States Parties thereby reinforcing the goals of the Convention to put an end to the use of cluster munitions. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the ISU and to the participants for their active engagement which made the workshop a success and wished everyone a safe journey home. He conveyed his hope of seeing the participants at the 10MSP in Geneva or at another CCM workshop in the future.

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