

**Cluster Munitions Convention  
11th Meeting of States Parties  
11.-14.9.2023**

**Report by the Art 5 Coordinators  
Chile and Austria**

Mr. President.  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues,

On behalf of the Article 5 thematic Coordinators Chile and Austria it is my pleasure to present the report on the status of the implementation of Article 5 of the convention. The President and many delegations have already underlined the importance of victim assistance as part of the implementation of the Convention and its centrality for the humanitarian impact of the CMW.

Art. 5 is very specific with regard to the obligations of States Parties and the Lausanne Action Plan has built on them even further in actions 31 to 37. We want to thank all the delegations that have reported about measures taken in relation to these actions and ask other States Parties with cluster munitions victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control to do the same. An overview of these responses can be found in the Progress Report.

We also want to recall again and as acknowledged in the Lausanne Action Plan that victim assistance is a long-term obligation, that for reasons of sustainability it should be integrated into national policies and legal frameworks and that improved coordination with a wide range of stakeholders is necessary. to ensure appropriate, inclusive and effective assistance.

Currently, 11 States Parties<sup>1</sup> are considered to have cluster munition victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control. One State Party<sup>2</sup> previously reported that it needed to verify whether it had cluster munition victims. In its 2022 annual report it confirmed not to have cluster munition victims. Eight States Parties with Article 5 obligations (Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Croatia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, and Montenegro) have submitted their 2022 annual report with updates on the thematic area. One State Party<sup>3</sup> submitted a voluntary report which provided disaggregated information on victims.

Unfortunately, three States Parties<sup>4</sup> had to report new cluster munition victims in 2022

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<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Croatia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mauritania, Montenegro, and Somalia

<sup>2</sup> Guinea-Bissau

<sup>3</sup> Somalia

<sup>4</sup> Irak , Lao DPR, Lebanon

Some States Parties also reported about challenges they faced such as difficulties in data collection, outdated national databases of cluster munition victims or challenges in the healthcare system and heavy reliance on international cooperation and assistance to fulfil their obligations.

During the period under review, the current coordinators, Chile and Austria, undertook several activities to enhance implementation of VA obligations under the Convention with a view to increase the exchange of information on good practices and enhance interaction between affected States. To this end, in 2022, the Coordinators entered discussions with the ISU and civil society to review the Guidance on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance and bring it line with LAP and IMAS 13.10.

In building on previous efforts, the coordinators continued to work to improve coordination on victim assistance issues with other relevant disarmament conventions. In 2022 and 2023, the coordinators participated in a retreat organized by the Committee on Victim Assistance of the APMBC, together with the Victim Assistance Coordinators of Protocol V of the CCW, and the Committees on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the APMBC and the CCM. As previously, the retreat provided an opportunity to share plans and objectives, discuss respective priorities and identify possible opportunities for cooperation, with a view to promoting concerted and synergistic approaches to victim assistance.

During the period under review, the coordinators underscored the need to help States Parties with VA obligations and encourage them to use the focal point database as well as to integrate VA into the framework of international cooperation and assistance that went beyond international aid.

For the discussion under this agenda item three guiding questions were prepared and outlined in the progress report for this meeting for the consideration of States Parties. They read as follows:

*(a) What are the main challenges identified by designated national focal points on victim assistance to coordinate multi-sectoral policies and practices required to fulfil Article 5 obligations and LAP?*

*(b) What difficulties are encountered by states to develop national action plans on victim assistance and national disability action plans?*

*(c) What good practices can ensure the sustainability and effective targeting of cooperation and assistance on victim assistance?*

Let me once again thank all delegations to give due attention to victim assistance in their implementation efforts, in their reporting and in their interventions. The coordinators stand ready for any exchange on this topic and with regard to reporting and also to help with any problems arising in this regard.