



**Twelfth Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**Geneva, 10 to 13 September 2024**

**International Committee of the Red Cross**

**Statement on National Implementation Measures**

**(Article 9 of the Convention)**

Madame President,

The ICRC wishes to commend the diligent work conducted by Iraq in its capacity as coordinator on national implementation measures.

The adoption of legal, administrative or other measures at domestic level to implement the key obligations of the Convention must remain a priority. True universalization of the Convention is intrinsically linked with domestic implementation obligations. This implementation is the most effective way to strengthen the norms of the Convention, of translating commitments into protections and of fulfilling the promises made to affected communities and victims and towards the aim of a world free of these abhorrent weapons.

According to the 12MSP Progress Report: *Monitoring progress in implementing the Lausanne Action Plan*, a little over half of the Convention's membership have adopted all national implementation measures, while some others have or are in the process of strengthening or amending these measures. A significant number of States Parties have not yet shared information about the status of their national implementation of the Convention.

We would like to emphasize that domestic implementation is a core obligation of the Convention and essential to ensuring it is complied with by armed forces. Further attention should also be given to integrating the Convention into military doctrines and trainings.

In our efforts to support States Parties, the ICRC worked together with Iraq as the Coordinator on National Implementation Measures and the Implementation Support Unit to conduct a survey with

States Parties of the Convention to better understand the status of domestic implementation and identify opportunities and challenges.

One particular challenge to domestic implementation lies in the lack of resources and expertise in completing legislative reviews in many States Parties. For its part, the ICRC stands ready to continue helping States in addressing these challenges in the course of developing their domestic implementing legislation. For this purpose, as is already known by this group, we have developed various tools, including a Model Law<sup>1</sup> and an updated factsheet.<sup>2</sup> As a way to support peer to peer exchanges and share existing practice among States Parties, our International Humanitarian Law databases<sup>3</sup> including one on National Practice<sup>4</sup> provides many examples of how States have incorporated their obligations regarding cluster munitions in their domestic legislation. We have also published a legislative checklist<sup>5</sup> for the Convention, complementary to the ICRC Model Law. This simple and user-friendly tool outlines what steps need to be taken to ensure the implementation of the Convention specifically under article 9, as well as good practices in the implementation of other articles.

This year we have worked on the implementation of this Convention with National IHL Committees or similar inter-ministerial advisory bodies. We have also addressed this Convention in regional dialogues, such as with the African Union and with Pacific Island States through a roundtable in Wellington. The ICRC has also been working with States in providing hands-on technical and drafting advice to relevant government departments.

As always, the ICRC remains available to provide States with assistance and advice on implementing measures.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> [Model Law: Convention on Cluster Munitions | ICRC](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Legal Factsheet: Convention on Cluster Munitions | ICRC](#)

<sup>3</sup> [International Humanitarian Law Databases | ICRC](#)

<sup>4</sup> [National Practice - IHL Databases | ICRC](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Checklist: Domestic Measures to Implement the Convention on Cluster Munitions | ICRC](#)