

## **Convention on cluster Munitions, 12 MSP**

### **Statement by Iraq**

#### **Coordinator for National Implementation Measures**

#### **Delivered by Ms. Raghad Hasan –Permeant Mission of the Republic of Iraq**

#### **Thank you, Madam President.**

Iraq is honored to serve as the Coordinator for National Implementation Measures under this Convention. In this role, we would like to express our deep appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit for their professional dedication and strong support, as well as to the ICRC, CMC, and other partners for their continued expertise and commitment to ensuring the full implementation of our Convention.

The implementation of the Convention is crucial to achieving its noble humanitarian objectives. However, it requires time and effort—potentially involving legislation, regulation, military doctrine, training, and education—to establish the full range of measures that may reflect the varying needs and capacities of different States.

As we know, once a country joins the CCM, it is obligated under Article 9 to implement the Convention's provisions domestically. This may involve adopting new laws, regulations, or administrative procedures to prevent any violations of the Convention, including prohibiting the use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of cluster munitions, and ensuring those who breach these laws face appropriate penalties.

The Article 9 also emphasizes the importance of aligning national legal frameworks with international obligations to ensure comprehensive compliance. Translating these international obligations into national law is essential for ensuring the Convention remains a credible international instrument and for preventing gaps between a State's commitments and its actual practices.

Action 47 of the Lausanne Action Plan sets the ambitious goal of having all States Parties fully comply with Article 9 before the 11th Meeting of States Parties (MSP) in 2023. Achieving this goal had been challenging. Approximately 47 states parties of the Convention's membership are either still developing their legislative frameworks or have not submitted the required information on the status of their legal frameworks. Many States have not provided updates for several years.

The National implementation is a core obligation of the Convention and remains a vital tool for building norms and ensuring the Convention is properly applied by states parties.

Despite this, there remains a strong commitment to seeing all States Parties adopt domestic measures where appropriate to implement the Convention.

To address these challenges and reinforce the effort to importance of the national implementation, Iraq, as Coordinator, with has engaged extensively with numerous States Parties. These discussions have underscored the critical role of domestic measures in upholding the principles of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The coordinator has continued to promote existing tools for implementation, including model legislation, and has engaged extensively with numerous States Parties to better understand the range of challenges that are affecting progress towards implementation in States Parties. These meetings have emphasized the critical role of national measures in upholding the principles of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In further support of these efforts, The Coordinator, Iraq in collaborating with the ISU, have circulated a letter to encouraged States Parties that their Legislation under consideration, or in the process of being adopted, or have not provided updates to fulfil their obligations under Article 9 and highlighted the useful resources available including the model legislations developed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC), and and New Zealand highlighting the available resources.

as well as to support States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under Article 9 of the Convention .

In March 2024, the Coordinator, Iraq, and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention and ICRC distributed a survey to States Parties that have not yet fulfilled their obligations under Article 9. The aim of the survey is to assess and track the progress made by States Parties in implementing the Convention and to enable the ISU and ICRC to provide technical assistance in supporting these efforts. We have received several responses so far, which will be instrumental in guiding the Coordinator's future work. These responses will also offer valuable insights to ensure continuity and effectiveness in our ongoing and future initiatives.

Though time was limited, the survey was distributed only in English. However, the Coordinator plans to redistribute it next year in multiple languages to gather more comprehensive responses.

**Madam President,**

It is important to note that not all States Parties will require new legislation to implement the CCM. Article 9 does not prescribe a specific approach to implementation; what matters is that States Parties comply with all provisions of the Convention—both its core prohibitions and its positive obligations—based on their legal systems and constitutions.

We encourage those States whose legislative frameworks are already sufficient to include this information in their national reports.

We also note that many States have not reported in recent years on how they are implementing their treaty commitments. We urge all States Parties to provide regular progress updates—either at this Meeting of States Parties or in their next annual transparency reports.

**Madam President,**

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the positive developments in the past (12 )months regarding States' implementation of their treaty commitments.

During the reporting period, 10 States Parties reported having strengthened or amended their national implementation measures.

- One State Party, Mexico, reported reviewing existing legislation to ensure effective implementation of the Convention.
- Four States Parties—The Gambia, Malawi, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Somalia—reported progress in drafting national legislation to implement the Convention domestically.
- Afghanistan reported amending existing regulations to define the role of its National Mine Action Authority, incorporating it into the broader National Disaster Management Authority.
- Chile reported preparing administrative documents for clearing cluster munition remnants in a specific region.
- Croatia and South Sudan adopted new National Mine Action Strategies.
- Colombia enacted new legislation related to national peace.
- Nigeria and South Sudan reported the need for national legislation to enforce the Convention's provisions domestically, and both requested support to do so. Two additional States, Senegal and Seychelles, similarly expressed the need for assistance.

During the reporting period, 12 States Parties—including Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, France, Iraq, Lao PDR, Peru, Spain, and Switzerland—reported disseminating their CCM obligations to relevant national institutions. An additional 10 States had previously reported doing so, bringing the total to 22 States Parties that have disseminated CCM obligations at the national level.

**Madam President,**

I extend my deepest gratitude to you and your team for your tireless efforts. It is now my honor to yield the floor to you for a thoughtful exchange on the challenges and opportunities regarding national implementation measures

