

# Convention on Cluster Munitions

18 September 2024

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## Twelfth Meeting of States Parties

Geneva, 10-13 September 2024

Agenda Item 14

### Consideration and adoption of the final document of the Meeting

## Final report

### I. Introduction

1. Article 11 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions provides that the States parties shall meet regularly in order to consider and, where necessary, take decisions in respect of any matter with regard to the application or implementation of the Convention. In accordance with Article 11, the Second Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention (Geneva, 25 - 27 November 2020 and 20 - 21 September 2021) decided to convene annually, until the Third Review Conference, a Meeting of States Parties for up to four days.<sup>1</sup>

2. Pursuant to the above, the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties (Geneva, 11-14 September 2023) decided that the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties would take place from 10 to 13 September 2024 in Geneva.<sup>2</sup> The Meeting also confirmed the designation of Ambassador Francisca Elizabeth Méndez Escobar, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office in Geneva, as the President of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties.<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the decision taken at the First Review Conference, her term commenced on the day following the conclusion of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties until the last day of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties.

3. By operative paragraph 9 of resolution 78/32, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to convene the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention and to continue to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be necessary to fulfil the tasks entrusted to him under the Convention and in the relevant decisions of the Meetings of States Parties and the Second Review Conference. Accordingly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations convened the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties and invited all States Parties, States not parties to the Convention, as well as relevant international organizations and institutions, to participate in the Meeting.

### II. Organization of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties

4. The Twelfth Meeting of States Parties was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 10, 11, and 13 September 2024<sup>4</sup>. Several informal events also took place on 12 September in the margins of the Meeting.

5. The following States Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Meeting: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana,

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

<sup>1</sup> CCM/CONF/2021/6, paragraph 84(ii)(a).

<sup>2</sup> CCM/MSP/2023/11, paragraph 55.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, paragraph 54.

<sup>4</sup> Due to financial constraints the duration of the Meeting was shortened by one day.

Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Zambia.

6. The following States signatories to the Convention participated in the work of the Meeting as observers: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and United Republic of Tanzania.

7. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Finland, Morocco, Myanmar, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Thailand, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe also participated in the work of the Meeting as observers.

8. The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) also participated in the work of the Meeting as observers, pursuant to rule 1 (2) of the rules of procedure.

9. The European Union, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), APOPO, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian People's Aid, and The HALO Trust also took part in the work of the Meeting as observers, pursuant to rule 1 (3) of the rules of procedure.

### **III. Work of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties**

10. The Twelfth Meeting of States Parties held six plenary sessions between 10 and 13 September 2024.

11. The Meeting was opened on 10 September 2024 by Ambassador Francisca Elizabeth Méndez Escobar of Mexico, President of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties. An opening ceremony featured messages by Joel Antonio Hernández García, Under Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico; Ambassador Julien Thöni of Switzerland, on behalf of the host country; the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, who also delivered a joint Under-Secretary-Generals' message on behalf of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Department of Peace Operations, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Gilles Carbonnier, Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Habbouba Aoun, Director of the Landmines Resource Center, University of Balamand, Lebanon, on behalf of the Cluster Munition Coalition; Raed Mokaed, on behalf of the cluster munition victims; Juliany Alcocer, winner of the Youth Multimedia Contest "Youth for Humanitarian Disarmament: Advancing the goals of the Convention on Cluster Munitions", organized by Mexico with the support of the European Union, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), and ODA. As part of the opening ceremony, the Meeting also watched the winning video project of the youth multimedia contest titled "Peace Across Borders".

12. At the first plenary session, on 10 September 2024, the Meeting adopted its agenda, as contained in document CCM/MSP/2024/1, confirmed its Rules of Procedure, as contained in CCM/MSP/2010/3, and took note of the Annotated provisional programme of work, as contained in CCM/MSP/2024/2/Rev.1. The Meeting also unanimously confirmed the observer status of the organizations, participating under rule 1.3 of the Rules of Procedure.

13. Also at the first plenary session, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Iraq were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties.

14. Also at the first plenary session, the Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of C. Mélanie Régimbal, Chief of Service of the Conference on Disarmament and Conference Support Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs as Secretary-General of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties.

15. At the first and the fifth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the requests presented under Article 4 of the Convention by Chad, Germany, and Lao People's Democratic Republic, for extension of the deadline for completing clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants located in cluster munition contaminated areas under their jurisdiction or control. Italy and Norway, on behalf of the Analysis group for Article 4 extension, presented the analyses of these requests, as contained in CCM/MSP/2024/4, CCM/MSP/2024/5, and CCM/MSP/2024/6, respectively.

16. At the second and third plenary sessions, States Parties and observer delegations delivered statements of a general nature.

17. At the third, fourth, and fifth plenary sessions the Meeting considered the status and operation of the Convention and other matters important for achieving the aims of the Convention, reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Convention's goals and in the application of the Lausanne Action Plan 2021 – 2026, as contained in CCM/MSP/2024/7 titled "Convention on Cluster Munitions 12MSP Progress Report: Monitoring progress in implementing the Lausanne Action Plan".

18. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting considered the activities of the Working group on Universalization. In particular, Malawi and Peru, in their capacity as the Coordinators of the Working Group, reported on the activities to promote the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and actions #10 and #11 of the Lausanne Action Plan. Updates on actions that have been undertaken in the pursuit of the universalization of the Convention were provided by States Parties, States not party, as well as by interested organisations.

19. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting considered the activities of the Working group on Stockpile destruction and retention. In particular, the Netherlands and Zambia, in their capacity as the Coordinators of the Working Group, reported on the activities undertaken in the implementation of article 4 obligations and actions #12 to #17 of the Lausanne Action Plan, including the destruction of the stockpiles of the cluster munitions and the retention or acquisition of cluster munitions pursuant to article 3(6) of the Convention.

20. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention and pursuant to action #13 of the Lausanne Action Plan, the Meeting heard the official declaration of compliance with the article 3 obligations by South Africa and Peru, and witnessed the handover by the two States Parties of their respective Declarations of Compliance to the President of the Meeting.

21. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting considered the activities of the Working group on Clearance and risk reduction. In particular, the Norway and Italy, in their capacity as the Coordinators of the Working Group, reported on the activities to promoting implementation of article 4 of the Convention. The Meeting also considered a working paper and the recommendations contained therein submitted by the Coordinators of the Working group on Clearance and risk reduction on "Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)", as contained in document CCM/MSP/2024/WP.1. Updates were provided by States Parties that are still in the process of clearing cluster munition contaminated areas pursuant to Article 4 of the Convention, as well as by States not party and other interested organisations.

22. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting considered the activities of the Working group on Victim Assistance. In particular, Austria and Panama, in their capacity as the Coordinators of the Working Group,

reported on the activities undertaken in the implementation of the victim assistance obligations under art.5 of the Convention and actions #31 – #37 of the Lausanne Action Plan. Updates on progress and challenges were provided by States Parties implementing victim assistance commitments on their efforts to fulfil the article 5 obligations and on the steps they have taken to implement the victim assistance actions of the Lausanne Action Plan, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

23. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting considered the activities of the Working group on Cooperation and Assistance. In particular, Switzerland, on behalf of Lebanon and Switzerland in their capacity as the Coordinators of the Working Group, reported on the activities undertaken in the implementation of the cooperation and assistance commitments under article 6 of the Convention and actions #38 – #42 of the Lausanne Action Plan. Updates on the efforts to foster cooperation and assistance and support the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention were provided by States Parties, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

24. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting considered the transparency measures under article 7 of the Convention. In particular, Australia, in its capacity as the Coordinators of the Transparency Measures, reported on the activities undertaken in the implementation of the commitments under art.7 of the Convention and actions #43 – #46 of the Lausanne Action Plan.

25. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting considered the issue of facilitation and clarification of compliance pursuant to article 8 of the Convention and the commitments undertaken in actions #49 – #50 of the Lausanne Action Plan.

26. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting considered national implementation in accordance with article 9 of the Convention. In particular, Iraq, in its capacity as the Coordinators of the National Implementation Measures, reported on the activities undertaken in the implementation of the commitments under article 9 of the Convention and actions #47 – #48 of the Lausanne Action Plan. Updates on measures, undertaken at national level, including adoption of national legislation, regulations, and administrative measures to prevent and suppress activities prohibited under the Convention were provided by States Parties, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

27. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting considered the issue of gender mainstreaming. In particular, Belgium and Germany, in their capacity as the Coordinators of the Working Group on the general status and operation of the Convention and focal points on gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan, reported on the activities undertaken in cooperation with the other thematic coordinators. The Meeting also considered a working paper titled “Taking stock of gender, diversity and inclusion in the Convention on Cluster Munitions: A mid-point review of the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan”, submitted by the Coordinators and a group of States and organizations<sup>5</sup> as contained in document CCM/MSP/2024/WP.2. Updates on the efforts aimed at ensuring that matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities are taken into account in the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan were provided by States Parties, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

28. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting considered implementation support. In particular, Pamela Moraga, Director of the Implementation Support Unit, reported on the activities undertaken to support the President, office holders, and States parties in implementing the mandate of the ISU, and submitted “Convention on Cluster Munitions Implementation Support Unit – 2023 Annual

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<sup>5</sup> Submitted by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, the Gambia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

Report”, as contained in document CCM/MSP/2024/10. The Meeting also considered the “Implementation Support Unit 2025 Work Plan and Budget”, submitted by the Director of the ISU, as contained in document CCM/MSP/2024/3.

29. In considering the financial status of the Convention, the Meeting considered the status of the assessed contributions to the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention by States Parties and States not party participating in the meetings pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention and the budget deficit resulting from outstanding unpaid balances, as well as measures to ensure sustainable financing for the meetings.

#### IV. Decisions and recommendations

30. The Meeting thanked Iraq, the president of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, for its efforts that led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 78/32 titled “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”.

31. The Meeting reaffirmed the determination of the States Parties to the Convention to put an end to the unacceptable harm caused by cluster munitions and underscored their obligation never under any circumstances to use, develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer cluster munitions.

32. In keeping with the object and provisions of the Convention and the commitments under the Lausanne Action Plan, the Meeting strongly condemned any use of cluster munitions by any actor and under any circumstances. In this respect the Meeting expressed its grave concern at the significant number of civilian casualties resulting from the repeated and well documented use of cluster munitions since the Second Review Conference.

33. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting noted with concern that no new accessions to the Convention have taken place since the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties and reiterated the importance of undertaking actively and, as a matter of priority, concerted and sustainable actions on universalization to promote adherence in the lead up to the Third Review Conference.

34. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting deeply regretted Lithuania’s decision<sup>6</sup>, exercising its national sovereignty, to denounce the Convention pursuant to its article 20. The Meeting emphasized the legal obligation of the States parties to promote universal adherence to and strict observance of the Convention’s norms, including to discourage, in every possible way, the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions. The Meeting also emphasized the commitment of the States Parties to condemn the use of cluster munitions. The Meeting underlined that due to their wide area effect and high level of unexploded ordnance, cluster munitions kill, injure, and destroy indiscriminately and cause unacceptable harm and severe suffering to civilians and that any perceived military utility is outweighed by the humanitarian harm they cause. The Meeting further noted the importance of putting forth concerted efforts by the States parties and all stakeholders to foster the stigma around the use of cluster munitions, ensure an increase in the membership, and further strengthen the humanitarian norms of the Convention. The Meeting further recalled that the norms established by IHL and enshrined in the CCM function precisely as a guardrail to protect civilians in times of conflict or heightened insecurity.

35. The Meeting urged Lithuania, a responsible State party to the CCM since 1 September 2011, to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Convention and expressed concern that this first ever case of withdrawal of a State from a multilateral treaty prohibiting a whole class of weapons creates a precedent that will have long-term repercussions for the integrity of the Convention and for the sanctity of international humanitarian law. The Meeting reiterated the offer of engaging in a constructive dialogue with Lithuania on this regard.

36. In the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting took stock of the implementation of the Convention and progress made since the

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<sup>6</sup> C.N.347.2024.TREATIES-XXVI.6 (Depositary Notification).

Eleventh Meeting of States Parties and welcomed the Progress Report on the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan, which covers the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024<sup>7</sup>.

37. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting emphasized the importance of universalization, reiterated its call to all States that have not yet done so, to ratify or otherwise accede to the Convention, and particularly in the current context, reminded the joint obligation of all States Parties to promote universal adherence to the Convention, and in that regard called on all States Parties and other stakeholders to spare no efforts on this issue as a matter of priority, including to prevent any withdrawal.

38. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the work of Malawi and Peru as Coordinators on Universalization and welcomed their efforts in advancing implementation of these obligations.

39. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the destruction of their respective stockpiles of cluster munitions by South Africa and Peru thus marking the completion by all States parties to the Convention of the article 3 obligations. The Meeting warmly welcomed this important achievement.

40. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the announcement by Belgium of the neutralization of all cluster munitions retained for training purposes pursuant to article 3(6). The Meeting emphasized that retaining explosive submunitions for the development of and training in cluster munition and explosive submunition detection, clearance, or destruction techniques, or for the development of cluster munition counter-measures, should be maintained at the strict necessary minimum.

41. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by the Netherlands and Zambia, Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention, in advancing implementation of these obligations.

42. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention and taking into account the requests and the analysis presented by the Analysis group for Article 4 extension of the requests submitted under article 4 of the Convention, the Meeting took the following decisions:

#### *Chad*

43. The Meeting of State Parties assessed the request submitted by Chad for an extension of its deadline for completing the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants in accordance with Article 4.1 of the Convention and agrees to grant the request for an extension of two years until 1 October 2026.

44. In granting the request, the Meeting notes that the non-technical survey (NTS) of the Tibesti Province will inform the extent of the remaining cluster munition contamination to be cleared.

45. The extension period will be used to mobilize funding and resources for survey teams. Based on the findings, Chad will prepare a comprehensive work plan and potentially request a further extension, to address any identified contaminated areas.

46. In granting the request, the Meeting strongly recommends that Chad regularly reports to State Parties on its resource mobilization activities and status, so that the Group is informed of the extent to which non-technical survey efforts can be carried out.

47. In granting the request, the Meeting recalls Article 6 of the Convention, according to which, in fulfilling its obligations under this Convention, each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance.

48. In granting the request, the Meeting recommends that Chad regularly reports to State Parties on the outcomes of the NTS and provides a costed work plan that includes risk education activities, and a resource mobilization plan.

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<sup>7</sup> CCM/MSP/2024/7.

49. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Chad reporting through its Article 7 report and at Meeting of States Parties or Review Conferences on the following:

- (a) Progress made on resource mobilization activities;
- (b) Progress made on non-technical survey activities in the Tibesti Province;
- (c) Updated information on the remaining cluster munition contamination based on the findings of the non-technical survey;
- (d) A detailed, updated work plan and budget for the subsequent year;
- (e) Updated information on land released through survey and clearance;
- (f) Any obstacle(s) identified to the fulfilment of its Article 4 obligation within the timeframe granted in its Extension Request.

50. In addition to reporting as requested above, the Meeting noted the importance of Chad keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of any other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of its Article 4.1 obligations during the period covered by the request, as necessary.

### *Germany*

51. The Meeting of State Parties assessed the request submitted by Germany for an extension of its deadline for completing the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants in accordance with Article 4.1 of the Convention, agreeing to grant the request for an extension of five years until 1 August 2030.

52. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Germany continues to fully fund the clearance operations through its own national resources and therefore a plan to ensure external support for funding is not necessary.

53. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that national and regional regulations, including regulations to protect the environment, in effect limit the amount of land that can be cleared on an annual basis. The meeting also notes that staffing for clearance operations is limited to personnel licensed under German regulations to carry out these activities.

54. In granting the request, the meeting noted that Germany's plan the Group further notes that the workplan presented by Germany for the extension period continues to be ambitious but practicable and can be monitored. The Group also noted that the workplan is dependent on the number of days that are available for preparation of land for clearance operations, and that there is a risk that this may vary due to weather conditions. In this regard, the Group expressed concern over the limited opportunities for controlled burning, which could only take place a few days each year under specific meteorological and environmental conditions. The Group noted that in 2023, as was the case in 2017, these conditions were not favourable, thereby hindering planned operations

55. The meeting further noted that the success of the plan presented for its second extension request will depend on the number of days that are available for preparation of land for clearance operations, weather conditions, and staffing.

56. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Germany reporting through its Article 7 report and at Meeting of States Parties or Review Conferences on the following:

- (a) Progress made on land cleared of cluster submunitions, as well as information on the submunitions that have been destroyed;
- (b) Updated information on any additional contamination identified through subsequent clearance activities, and on remaining contamination;
- (c) Updated detailed work plans for the subsequent year and, if possible, also for the following years;
- (d) Any obstacles identified to fulfilling its Article 4 obligation in the timeframe presented in its extension request;

- (e) Other relevant information.

57. In addition to reporting as requested above, the Meeting noted the importance of Germany keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of any other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of its Article 4.1 obligations during the period covered by the request, as necessary.

#### *Lao People's Democratic Republic*

58. The Meeting of State Parties assessed the request submitted by Lao PDR for an extension of its deadline for completing the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants in accordance with Article 4.1 of the Convention and agrees to grant the request for an extension of five years until 1 August 2030.

59. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Lao PDR is one of the most heavily contaminated countries by unexploded submunitions. In this regard, notwithstanding the substantial efforts undertaken during the first extension period, Lao PDR still faces significant remaining challenges in order to fulfil its Article 4 obligations.

60. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomes that within its first extension request, during the period from 2021 to 2023, Lao PDR undertook technical survey using the CMRS methodology to identify more than 65,134 hectares (651.34km<sup>2</sup>) of contaminated land and in the same period cleared over 16,943 hectares (169.43km<sup>2</sup>) of this amount, which equates to 26% of the contamination identified for that period.

61. The Meeting further notes that the massive extent of contamination in Lao PDR means that survey of villages is complete in five high priority provinces but remains incomplete in the majority of provinces. As such, the rate of areas identified as CHAs will continue to rise as survey continues in the remaining provinces.

62. In granting the request, the Meeting noted Lao PDR's ongoing efforts to undertake a nationwide CMRS of populated areas, which is gradually allowing it to produce a more precise and evidence-based assessment of the actual extent of cluster munition remnant contamination.

63. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Lao PDR reporting annually through Article 7 reports and Meeting of States Parties or Review Conferences on the following:

- (a) Progress made on the implementation of Lao PDR's work plan during the extension period;
- (b) Updated information on remaining confirmed contamination and outstanding areas to be subject to survey;
- (c) Updated, detailed annual plans for the implementation of its extension request based on new information gathered from survey activities;
- (d) Resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, and resources made available by the Government of Lao PDR to support implementation efforts. In particular, the updated information on the efforts undertaken by the UXO Sector Working Group (UXO SWG), mechanism, which is a similar concept as "Country coalition", would be of interest;
- (e) Other relevant information.

64. In addition to reporting as requested above, the Meeting noted the importance of Lao PDR keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of any other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of its Article 4.1 obligations during the period covered by the request, as necessary.

65. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting expressed appreciation to the Coordinators of the Working group on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education for their work and decided, as proposed by the Coordinators in their working paper on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM/MSP/2024/WP.1), to appoint a dedicated coordinator for risk education within the CCM machinery to enhance the overall effectiveness of efforts to

address the issue and facilitate effective monitoring of the indicators outlined in the Lausanne Action Plan , and to introduce a separate agenda item on risk education (separated from clearance) in the agenda of the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention.

66. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of Norway and Italy, Coordinators on clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and risk reduction education and welcomed their efforts in advancing implementation of these obligations.

67. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting reiterated that assistance to victims, their families and communities is a key factor in the implementation of the Convention and a long-term commitment to the full and equal inclusion of survivors and victims.

68. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of Austria and Panama, Coordinators on Victim Assistance and welcomed their efforts in advancing implementation of these obligations.

69. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting stressed the importance of international cooperation and assistance in providing support and facilitating the implementation of the Convention.

70. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of Lebanon and Switzerland, Coordinators on cooperation and assistance and welcomed their efforts in advancing implementation of these obligations.

71. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting stressed the importance of transparency measures and reiterated that initial and annual national reporting is a critical obligation under Article 7 of the Convention in its role as a key instrument of measuring implementation. In this context the Meeting noted with regret that reporting rates have fallen in 2024 and called upon all States parties to fulfill their article 7 obligations. The Meeting also called on all States parties to make use of the new reporting forms, including Form J,<sup>8</sup> as adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties.

72. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of Australia, Coordinator on Transparency Measures and welcomed its efforts in advancing implementation of these obligations.

73. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting reiterated the importance of compliance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Convention.

74. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of Iraq, Coordinator on National Implementation Measures and welcomed its efforts in advancing implementation of these obligations.

75. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, Belgium and Germany, for their important work in this regard, as well as in fulfilling their role as focal points of the Convention to provide advice on Gender Mainstreaming and ensuring that matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities are considered in the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan in cooperation with the other thematic coordinators. The document CCM/MSP/2024/WP.2 was presented by the Coordinators .

76. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting expressed deep appreciation to the Director and the staff of the Implementation Support Unit for their work in support of the Convention. The Meeting approved the ISU workplan and budget for 2025 (CCM/MSP/2024/3). The Meeting welcomed that the annual workplans had been implemented as approved. The Meeting also agreed that the 2026 ISU budget and work plan would be submitted sixty days prior to the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties and that the Director of the ISU would continue to submit reports on the work undertaken by the ISU annually.

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<sup>8</sup> CCM/MSP/2023/7.

77. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention and recalling that the Agreement between the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining on the Hosting of the Implementation Support Unit provides that it shall be reviewed every three years, the Meeting took note of the postponement of the review and decided to hold the review at the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties.

78. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, and taking note of the substantive details of the 2023 annual report, and the proposal made by the President to debate recent challenges to the norm established by the CCM, in particular with the notification of withdrawal by Lithuania, the Meeting expressed appreciation to the ISU for convening a Stakeholder Dialogue to discuss emerging challenges to the norm prohibiting cluster munitions, and implications for wider humanitarian disarmament, peace and development goals.

79. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the President of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties for presenting the outcome of the Stakeholder Dialogue, as contained in CCM/MSP/2024/WP.3. The Meeting took note of the concerns raised by the stakeholder group.

80. Appraised of these concerns, the Meeting mandated the President of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, in cooperation with the Troika<sup>9</sup> and the Coordination Committee, to consult and present recommendations for suggested ways forward for consideration by the Thirteenth Meeting. The Meeting also requested the Implementation Support Unit, in support of the President of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, to convene a series of Dialogues open to States parties and other stakeholders to reflect on these and other concerns and challenges and consider concrete actions for consideration by the Thirteenth Meeting.

81. In the context of considering the financial status of assessed contributions to the Convention, the Meeting expressed deep concern at the continuing unstable financial situation due to late payments and arrears of assessed contributions which forced shortening its duration and affected multilingualism and its overall support and underlined the importance to ensure compliance by all States Parties with their Article 14 obligations. The Meeting strongly appealed to the States parties and observer States participating in the meetings of States Parties to proceed promptly with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment invoices have been received.

82. At its sixth plenary meeting, the Meeting welcomed new Coordinators to guide the intersessional work programme, as follows:

- (a) Working group on the General status and operation of the Convention: Germany (until the end of the Thirteenth Meeting of States parties) working with Austria (until the end of the Third Review Conference);
- (b) Working group on Universalization: Peru (until the end of the Thirteenth Meeting of States parties) working with Norway (until the end of the Third Review Conference);
- (c) Working group on Victim Assistance: Panama (until the end of the Thirteenth Meeting of States parties) working with (TBC)<sup>10</sup> (until the end of the Third Review Conference);
- (d) Working group on Clearance: Italy (until the end of the Thirteenth Meeting of States parties) working with France (until the end of the Third Review Conference);
- (e) Working group on Stockpile destruction and retention: Zambia (until the end of the Thirteenth Meeting of States parties) working with (TBC)<sup>11</sup> (until the end of the Third Review Conference);

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<sup>9</sup> Mexico, Philippines, and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

<sup>10</sup> To be nominated at a later stage.

<sup>11</sup> To be nominated at a later stage.

- (f) Working group on Cooperation and Assistance: Switzerland (until the end of the Thirteenth Meeting of States parties) working with the Netherlands (until the end of the Third Review Conference).

83. At the same plenary meeting, the Meeting welcomed the Coordinators to lead the following thematic areas:

- Transparency Measures: Australia
- National Implementation Measures: Iraq
- Risk education: Lao People's Democratic Republic

84. The Meeting reaffirmed its attachment to the principle of multilingualism and emphasized the need to ensure the prompt payment of financial contributions to ensure its effective implementation.

85. The Meeting elected Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta, Permanent Representative of the Philippines, as the President of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to be held in 2025. In accordance with the decision taken at the First Review Conference, his term will commence on the day following the conclusion of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties until the last day of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties.

86. The Meeting also decided that the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties will take place during the week of 15 September 2025 in Geneva and adopted the revised estimated costs of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, as contained on document CCM/MSP/2024/8.

87. In accordance with the decision of the Second Review Conference, the Meeting decided to hold intersessional meetings during the ensuing annual cycle at a date to be decided and communicated by the President of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties.

88. The Meeting also decided that the Third Review Conference of States Parties to take place in 2026 will be presided over by Lao People's Democratic Republic and, pursuant to the decision<sup>12</sup> of the Second Review Conference requesting the United Nations to prepare a multi-year cost-estimate that covers a two-year period for the approval by the States Parties and to issue invoices based on these estimates at least 60 days before the start of the financial period or 60 days after the States Parties have adopted the budget for the next financial period, adopted the estimated costs of the Third Review Conference of States Parties, as contained in document CCM/MSP/2024/9.

89. A list of documents submitted to the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties is contained in Annex I to this report. These documents are available through the United Nations Official Documents System (<http://documents.un.org>).

90. At its sixth plenary meeting, on 13 September 2024, the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties adopted its final report, as contained in CCM/MSP/2024/CRP.1, to be issued as document CCM/MSP/2024/11.

<sup>12</sup> CCM/CONF/2021/6, paragraph 90(iii).

## Annex

### List of documents submitted to the Twelfth Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCM/MSP/2024/1	Provisional agenda. Submitted by the President
CCM/MSP/2024/2	Provisional Annotated Programme of Work. Submitted by the President
CCM/MSP/2024/2/Rev.1	Revised Provisional Annotated Programme of Work. Submitted by the President
CCM/MSP/2024/3	Implementation Support Unit 2025 Work Plan and Budget. Submitted by the Director of ISU
CCM/MSP/2024/4	Analysis of Chad's request of deadline extension under Article 4.1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
CCM/MSP/2024/5	Analysis of Germany's request of deadline extension under Article 4.1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
CCM/MSP/2024/6	Analysis of Lao People's Democratic Republic's deadline extension request under Article 4.1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
CCM/MSP/2024/7	Convention on Cluster Munitions 12MSP Progress Report: Monitoring progress in implementing the Lausanne Action Plan
CCM/MSP/2024/8	Revised estimated costs of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Note by the Secretariat
CCM/MSP/2024/9	Estimated costs of the 2026 Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and its Preparatory Committees. Note by the Secretariat
CCM/MSP/2024/10	Convention on Cluster Munitions Implementation Support Unit – 2023 Annual Report
CCM/MSP/2024/11	Final report
CCM/MSP/2024/WP.1	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)
CCM/MSP/2024/WP.2	Taking stock of gender, diversity and inclusion in the Convention on Cluster Munitions: A mid-point review of the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan
CCM/MSP/2024/WP.3	CCM Stakeholder Consultation Dialogue (4 September 2024). Submitted by the President
CCM/MSP/2024/MISC.1	Upholding and Strengthening the Norms of International Humanitarian Law that Protect Humanity in Times of Adversity. Submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross
CCM/MSP/2024/MISC.2	Withdrawn

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCM/MSP/2024/MISC.3	Explanation of Position on the “State of Palestine”. Submitted by Australia, the Czech Republic, Germany, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands
CCM/MSP/2024/INF.1	List of participants

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