



Concept Note from the 13 MSP Presidency

Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meeting 2025

7 and 8 April 2025, PdN, Room XXI

In reference to the decision by the 12th Meeting of States Parties (MSP) to convene an Intersessional Meeting to discuss matters pertaining to progress in implementing the Convention and further in accordance with the decision of the 2nd Review Conference¹ (2RC), “*that the President of the [next] MSP will identify dates and elaborate a programme for the 2025 intersessional meetings, in cooperation with the Coordination Committee*”, I have the honour to share with States Parties and other stakeholders, an elaborated concept note for consideration in the preparations ahead.

The meeting will focus on the status of mandate implementation, priority areas of work, and ongoing Coordination Committee efforts, as well as providing a platform for States Parties and the broader CCM community to share updates on the Convention’s implementation. The Intersessional Meeting will also provide an opportunity to begin a preliminary evaluation of overall progress and challenges in implementing the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP), as we start laying the groundwork for a more comprehensive review in the months to come.

Importantly, the Intersessional meeting will also serve as a critical forum to address the evolving landscape of humanitarian disarmament, particularly in light of recent developments that have tested the resilience of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the norms underpinning the CCM. Attached you will find an annotated agenda addressing matters on the General Status and Operations of the Convention.

- 1) With an initial focus under subitems (a) to (i) presentations and updates are welcome on the progress of implementation under the LAP and actions taken by Coordinators as contained in the respective Coordinator’s workplans 2024-2025.

As per decisions by the 2RC, Coordinators of the Committee are mandated to review relevant information provided by the States Parties on the implementation of the commitments contained in the LAP, and to provide a Progress Report thereon annually to the MSP-RC, including joint conclusions on the status of implementation.² These updates will serve to outline the forthcoming LAP Progress report on the implementation of the LAP to be submitted to the 13MSP.

The format of the informal discussions under agenda items (a) to (i) will include introductory remarks by coordinators whereafter the floor will be opened for States parties and other stakeholders to provide updates of their work. Under subitem (c) the floor will first be given to the States Parties presenting informal presentations of extension requests under Article 4.

- 2) Secondly, under subitem (j), recalling the agreed position of the 2RC³ that “*Coordinators on General Status & Operation (currently Austria and Germany) have no permanently assigned tasks*” and further that “*this enable(s) them to provide essential support to the Presidency in fulfilling specific*

¹ CCM/MSP/2024/11, paragraph 87

² CCM/CONF/2021/6, paragraph 84, iii, b

and discrete mandates”³, and in addition to the work of thematic Coordinators⁴, it is suggested that the Coordinators on General States and Operation of the Convention support the Presidency in the follow up of matters pertaining to:

- (i) **Agenda item H on Gender Mainstreaming and the Diverse Needs of Populations**⁵ ensuring that matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities are considered in the implementation of the LAP, and
- (ii) **Agenda item J regarding concerns and challenges raised during the 12MSP** amongst other as contained in CCM/MSP/2024/WP.3 and as mandated by the 12MSP⁶.

The format under agenda item (j) will start with an initial 1-2 presentations of select stakeholders’ views on the impact and potential consequences of challenges identified followed by an opportunity for States Parties, signatory States and other stakeholders to contribute to the session via statements from the floor in a discussion among stakeholders facilitated by the Coordinator. As several of these developments relate to thematic areas of work, it will be important to coordinate this work as relevant across the Coordination Committee. Subitems will include, but are not limited to:

- **Emerging challenges to the norm prohibiting cluster munitions**
- **Capacity constrains for Victim Assistance** considering the significant increase of victims of war
- **Significant budget cuts impacting on the implementation of operative actions under the CCM**, including victim assistance, stockpile destruction and clearance under **International Cooperation and Assistance**
- **Increased significance of Risk Education** considering reduced level of clearance activities
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Under the informal setting of the intersessional meeting, it is envisioned that States Parties and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to identify and discuss, as envisioned by the 12MSP, emerging challenges to the norm prohibiting cluster munitions, and implications for wider humanitarian disarmament, peace and development goal⁷ and, as appraised by the concerns also mandated the President of the 13MSP, in cooperation with the Troika and the Coordination Committee, to consult and present recommendations for suggested ways forward for consideration by the 13MSP⁸. To this end, these informal dialogues among stakeholders are envisioned to reflect and consider concrete actions for consideration ahead.

³ CCM/CONF/2021/6, paragraph 133, annex III, IX, D ,2

⁴ e.g. Universalisation, Storage and stockpile destruction, Clearance and Destruction of Cluster Munitions remnants, Victim Assistance, International Cooperation and Assistance, and Transparency Measures, and the recent addition of a dedicated Coordinator on Risk Education

⁵ CCM/CONF/2021/6, paragraph 84, iii, c

⁶ CCM/MSP/2024/11, paragraph 79

⁷ CCM/MSP/2024/11, paragraph 78

⁸ CCM/MSP/2024/11, paragraph 80