

13MSP Progress Report Contribution: National Implementation Measures (Actions 47–48)

Submitted by the Coordinator on National Implementation Measures (Iraq)

Overview of Activities (1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025)

Since assuming the role of Coordinator on National Implementation Measures following the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties, the Coordinator has taken proactive steps to strengthen the implementation of Article 9 of the Convention and promote national ownership and legislative alignment.

In coordination with the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), a targeted outreach campaign was launched in October 2024 to gather updated information on the legislative status of States Parties. A letter was circulated to 47 States Parties, grouped into three categories:

- 27 States Parties with legislation under consideration or in the process of being adopted;
- 9 States for which clarification was required on the current status of national measures;
- 11 States with no available data.

The purpose of this initiative was to generate updated inputs for the existing database on national implementation measures, to improve the accuracy and completeness of information available to State parties and stakeholders, currently under development in cooperation with the ISU, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC). This tool will serve as a user-friendly reference platform to improve transparency, knowledge-sharing, and tracking of progress toward the implementation of Article 9.

During the 28th Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers (UNNDM28), the Coordinator engaged bilaterally with a number of States Parties. These discussions revealed a recurring challenge: a lack of internal coordination among national authorities responsible for implementing the Convention. In several instances, government officials were unaware of who held the role of national focal point for CCM implementation or Article 9 obligations. This institutional ambiguity continues to impede effective reporting and legislative advancement.

Additionally, the Coordinator observed that while some States Parties have national mine action authorities, these are not always mandated to address Article 9 obligations or to liaise with legislative bodies. This fragmentation underscores the need for technical support that not only focuses on legislative drafting but also on institutional streamlining and clarity of roles at the national level.

Key Challenges Observed

- **Institutional Fragmentation:** Poor inter-agency coordination within States Parties, especially where responsibilities for mine action and treaty implementation are not clearly delineated.
- **Focal Point Ambiguity:** Inadequate designation or awareness of the national focal points for CCM-related legislative responsibilities.
- **Limited Use of Model Legislation:** Although model texts are available, many States Parties are unaware of or lack the capacity to adapt them to their national legal systems.

– **Information Gaps:** A substantial number of States Parties either have not reported on their national implementation measures or lack publicly available documentation on legislative progress.

Suggestions for Consideration at the 13MSP

1. **Cross-sectoral Dialogues:** Promoting inter-ministerial roundtables at the national level to clarify institutional roles and responsibilities and ensure inter-agency cooperation.
2. **Enhanced Use of Model Tools:** Disseminating simplified guidance notes on the adaptation of model legislation and providing legal technical assistance where necessary.
3. **Regional and Country Coalitions:** Encouraging the formation of regional or thematic coalitions—including those that already focus on stockpile destruction and clearance—to integrate support for national implementation measures where relevant.
4. **Tracking and Transparency:** Finalizing the centralized Article 9 database and encouraging States Parties to validate or update their entries annually through direct ISU coordination.

Conclusion

There is an urgent need to sustain momentum and cooperation among all stakeholders—particularly the Coordinator, the Implementation Support Unit, and civil society organizations—to support States Parties in fulfilling their Article 9 obligations. National implementation remains a cornerstone of the Convention’s effectiveness, and sustained attention to domestic legal measures is vital to upholding the humanitarian objectives of the CCM.