

CMC Statement on Transparency

*13th Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Geneva, 16-19 September 2025*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Cluster Munition Coalition would like to thank the 62 states who submitted their Article 7 transparency reports before August 29 this year. Thank you for remembering your obligations under the Convention. We also thank the Transparency Reporting Coordinator – Australia - for all its efforts and for trying to make reporting fun.

Article 7 reports are a key part of implementation of the Convention. The sharing of information among State Parties and with international organizations and civil society allows us to track and assess progress towards our shared goals - especially on clearance, risk education, stockpile destruction and victim assistance obligations.

Without transparency, our progress will be hindered. How can donors know which countries need assistance without Article 7 reports? How can the Cluster Munition Monitor assess progress without data?

Despite our challenges, the Convention on Cluster Munitions has had many successes in terms of clearance, reduced use of cluster munitions and destruction of stockpiles. Without transparency reporting, how would we know which country's achievements need to be celebrated?

The world needs good news stories and you have them - you need to report on them so we can share them with the world!

Remember Article 7 obligations apply to all States Parties. Even if you have never stockpiled cluster munitions or had any contamination, every state party needs to at least complete the cover page. If you do not have any updates to your previous Article 7 report, you just have to fill in your country's name, the reporting period and click the 11 boxes for "unchanged" (while adding the year that topic was last updated). It should not be a time consuming exercise if nothing has changed for your country.

Transparency is not just paperwork; it means that affected communities can get the support they need, that donors can allocate resources effectively, and that progress on victim assistance is real and measurable.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is a group project we have all agreed to undertake. Group projects can be difficult to organize and monitor to ensure that the work gets done so Article 7 reports allow us all to track how our project is going. Unfortunately, only 56% of States Parties reported on the work they did last year. No project can succeed when barely half of the team shares what they have done.

As a student, I know how difficult group projects can be but I also know that if the group works together, communicates and everyone does their bit, we can create something amazing. If we all do our part, our collective effort will not just be a successful project; it will be a legacy of hope, safety and humanity for generations to come.

Thank you.