

# Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

30 March 2026

English only

## Reflections and options regarding the Convention's machinery: Coordination Committee and the Role of the President

### I. Introduction

1. The implementation of the Convention is supported by a machinery composed of several distinct elements. The draft review of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) submitted by the Presidency outlines these different components, including the associated challenges identified in this area (draft Review Document, Part XI).
2. The Review Conference provides the opportunity to not only review but also, where necessary, to adjust the various aspects of the Convention's machinery. Considerations should focus on how the machinery could best support the efforts of States Parties to implement the Convention and the action plan to be adopted at the Third Review Conference (3RC).
3. In this context, States Parties may wish to take into consideration views on the challenges and opportunities related to the Convention's implementation architecture in order to ensure that the decisions taken at the 3RC regarding the future machinery respond effectively to current and emerging implementation challenges.
4. This document focuses on one specific aspect of the machinery that has yet to be addressed in detail, namely the office holders of the Convention, including the Coordination Committee and the role of the President. As with previous Review Conferences, it also outlines possible considerations for States Parties going forward.

### II. The Coordination Committee and Working Groups/Coordinators

5. Regarding the Coordination Committee, Working Groups and Coordinators, the Second Review Conference (2RC) decided that<sup>1</sup>:
  - (a) the composition of the Coordination Committee shall remain unchanged, comprising the President, the President-designate, the outgoing President and all the Coordinators, with the ICRC, the United Nations and the CMC invited to participate as observers, while recalling that the Coordination Committee may call upon others to assist with its work, as appropriate;
  - (b) to mandate the Committee to review relevant information provided by the States Parties on the implementation of the commitments contained in the LAP, to provide a progress report thereon annually to the MSPs/Review Conference, including joint conclusions on the status of implementation;
  - (c) that the Coordinators on General Status and Operation will act as focal points to provide advice on gender mainstreaming and to ensure that matters related to gender and

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



the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities are taken into account in the implementation of the LAP, in cooperation with the other thematic Coordinators;

(d) further to the decision taken by the Eighth Meeting of States Parties (8MSP), that the ad hoc Analysis group to consider extension requests submitted under Article 3 will comprise the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention and the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance and that the ad hoc Analysis group to consider requests submitted under Article 4 will comprise the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk education and the Coordinators on International cooperation and assistance, that representative(s) of the CCM ISU and other States Parties can serve in a support role, and that the ad hoc Analysis Groups will consult and seek expertise to assist during the analysis from a number of sources, including, but not limited to, the UN and its agencies, the ICRC, the CMC, the GICHD, as well as other organizations and demining experts, as appropriate.

6. At the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties (12MSP), the Meeting decided to appoint a dedicated Coordinator for Risk Education within the CCM machinery. This was intended to enhance the overall effectiveness of efforts in this area, facilitate monitoring of the indicators outlined in the LAP, and to introduce a separate agenda item on Risk Education in the Meetings of States Parties (MSPs)<sup>2</sup>.

7. The Working Groups provide the thematic leadership and coordination on key areas under the Convention. Coordinators lead the respective Working Groups and collectively form the Coordination Committee. With the exception of the Working Group on General Status and Operation of the Convention, the thematic areas correspond to obligations of States Parties by facilitating the exchange of information, sharing best practices, and alignment on Convention priorities, without assuming any implementation obligations themselves. The Working Groups currently established are:

- General Status and Operation of the Convention
- Universalization
- Clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants
- Risk education
- Victim Assistance
- International cooperation and assistance
- National implementation measures
- Transparency measures
- Storage and stockpile destruction

8. Coordinators develop annual workplans outlining objectives and planned activities, with support from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU). There are no consolidated terms of reference defining their functions; reporting requirements are established through decisions of States Parties, including CCM/CONF/2021/6, paragraph 84.3(b) of the Second Review Conference (2RC). Their role has evolved through decisions of States Parties at the First and the Second Meetings of States Parties, and the 2RC, providing general orientation for coordinated efforts to advance implementation of the Convention.

9. Coordinators operate under the general guidance of the President and contribute to the intersessional work programme. The nature and extent of this guidance may vary in practice. Coordinators support practical, results-oriented, and cost-effective coordination across the Convention's priorities, facilitating information exchange and alignment among States Parties.

10. Coordinators are nominated by States Parties and appointed by MSPs or Review Conferences, generally following an open and informal process based on expression of interest. In practice, not all coordination roles have consistently been filled, as appointments depend on the willingness of States Parties to assume these responsibilities.

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<sup>2</sup> CCM/MSP/2024/WP.1.

11. The Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties (13MSP) welcomed new Coordinators to guide the intersessional work programme, as follows:

- Working Group on the General Status and Operation of the Convention and CCM Gender Focal Points: Austria (until the end of the 3RC) working with Cameroon (until the end of the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties (14MSP));
- Working Group on Universalization: Norway (until the end of the 3RC) working with Costa Rica (until the end of the 14MSP);
- Working Group on Victim Assistance: Niger (until the end of the 14MSP) working with Japan<sup>3</sup> (until the end of the 14MSP);
- Working Group on Clearance: France (until the end of the 3RC) working with Mexico (until the end of the 14MSP);
- Working Group on Storage and stockpile destruction: Peru (until the end of the 14MSP) working with Burkina Faso (until the end of the 14MSP);
- Working Group on International Cooperation and Assistance: Kingdom of the Netherlands (until the end of the 3RC) working with Switzerland (until the end of the 14MSP).
- Transparency measures: Australia
- National implementation measures: Panama
- Risk Education: Lebanon

12. Since the 2RC, the Coordination Committee has continued to meet regularly under successive Presidencies to support intersessional follow-up, thematic coordination, and engagement across the Convention's machinery. It provides a platform for exchange among States Parties and Coordinators, helping maintain continuity across work streams and supporting follow-up on commitments and priorities identified through the action plans. The Committee's intended role includes offering guidance to successive Presidencies and facilitating information sharing, while its level of engagement may vary depending on participation in each intersessional cycle.

13. The Coordination Committee provides a forum to maintain awareness of the Convention's work streams and to facilitate information exchange among States Parties and Coordinators. It is kept informed of developments in processes addressing specific obligations, such as extension requests under Articles 3 and 4, which are handled by the relevant Working Groups.

14. Following the 2RC, ad hoc Analysis Groups for Articles 3 and 4 have provided technical feedback to submitting States Parties. These groups bring together Coordinators and other relevant actors and benefit from broader engagement with organizations and practitioners with operational and technical expertise. This collaborative approach supports the provision of informed technical feedback, alongside the coordination role of Coordinators and the support of the ISU.

15. Since the establishment of the Coordination Committee, forty-three (43) States Parties have been appointed or re-appointed as Coordinators.

16. Overall, the Coordinators' structure, including the Working Groups and the Coordination Committee, has supported the Convention by advancing work between meetings and contributing to the preparation of the MSPs and Review Conferences. In practice, working methods have remained flexible and largely informal, with coordination across thematic areas taking place through workplans and exchanges among Coordinators, with support of the ISU.

17. Some recent discussions and suggestions have highlighted broader considerations relevant to the functioning of Working Groups and Coordinators, including:

<sup>3</sup> Japan assumed the role of Coordinator for Victim Assistance after the 13MSP. The country submitted its Note Verbale in February 2026, accepting the role in response to the invitation of the Presidency.

- Consideration of linkage with broader humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development frameworks, including environment, climate, Women, Peace and Security, Youth, Peace and Security agendas, as well as reflections related to sponsorship programme, CCM finances, and victim-centred approaches, including mental health and psychosocial support;
- Strengthening the integration of gender and diversity considerations across the work of Working Groups and Coordinators. These linkages have, in some instances, already been reflected in practice.

18. Depending on the scope and format of the Vientiane Capital Action Plan (VCAP), the focus and priorities of Working Groups, Coordinators, and the Presidency may evolve. For example, actions related to Article 7 reporting may require more detailed inputs, potentially increasing emphasis on reporting within the intersessional work programme.

19. The composition of the Coordination Committee, including all Coordinators, facilitates a diversified network of partners, supporting delivery across thematic areas and the Convention's humanitarian objectives. Coordination extends not only to field-based implementing organizations but also to institutions that contribute to policy development, intersessional support, and parliamentary engagement on universalization and national implementation.

20. When considering possible reflections on the Convention's office holders, States Parties may wish to consider:

- Potential adjustment to the mandates of Working Groups, Coordinators, or the Presidency, where necessary, to accommodate new tasks arising from the VCAP or other Review Conference documents;
- Strengthening the incorporation of gender, diversity, and the needs of vulnerable groups across mandates, in coordination with the Focal point;
- Options for broader participation in the Coordination Committee to support institutional continuity;
- Measures to enhance clarity and consistency in the functioning of office holders, including general guidance to support working methods and continuity across implementation cycles.

### III. The Presidency

21. The 2RC decided to mandate the President to<sup>4</sup>:

- follow with all the necessary diligence matters related to the United Nations assessed contributions pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention, including the implementation of the decisions taken by the Conference thereon;
- take all necessary steps, in cooperation with the Coordinators on universalization, to promote the implementation of the recommendations on initial actions contained in the paper "Ways Forward on Universalisation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions" (CCM/CONF/2020/12) endorsed by the Conference;
- assist and engage with States Parties implementing obligations under Article 3 or 4 or retaining or transferring cluster munitions in line with Article 3.6 and 3.7, having omitted to submit an Article 7 report for two consecutive years detailing progress in implementing these obligations, in close cooperation with the relevant Coordinators.

22. The President plays a central role in CCM functioning. While there are no consolidated terms of reference, it provides leadership on strategic priorities, presides over MSPs, and ensures the continuity of the implementation during the intersessional periods.

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<sup>4</sup> CCM/CONF/2021/6, paragraph (iv) a-c.

23. The role of the President is grounded in decisions of States Parties, emphasizing sustained leadership to support coordination, universalisation, and effective implementation of the Convention. The Presidency presides over the MSPs and Review Conferences and helps maintain continuity in the intersessional period by providing political guidance, chairing the regular meetings of the Coordination Committee, and reporting to States Parties. More broadly, the Presidency is expected to:

- Facilitate the implementation of decisions and initiatives adopted by States Parties, supporting coordination among office holders and the intersessional programme;
- Promote the Convention objectives, universalization, and implementation through statements and activities as appropriate.
- Advocate for adequate resources to support the operations of the ISU and the conduct of MSPs.

24. Practice has demonstrated broad cross-regional engagement, with representatives from all regions serving as President, reflecting the shared ownership of the Convention. While Presidencies have at times required extensive consultation before confirmation, this practice underscores the collective commitment of States Parties to sustaining the Convention's political momentum and institutional continuity<sup>5</sup>.

25. The process for identifying future Presidencies remains largely informal, based on outreach by the incumbent Presidency and expressions of interest by States Parties. While flexible, this may create some uncertainty during transitions.

26. Proposals for a more predictable succession process have been suggested to strengthen continuity, stability, and engagement across the Convention's implementation cycle<sup>6</sup>.

27. As of mid-March 2026, no candidates for the 14MSP Presidency have been announced.

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<sup>5</sup> Lao PDR (1MSP), Lebanon (2MSP), Norway (3MSP), Zambia (4MSP), Costa Rica (5MSP), Croatia (1RC), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (6MSP), Germany (7MSP), Nicaragua (8MSP), Sri Lanka (9MSP), Switzerland (2RC), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (10MSP), Iraq (11MSP), Mexico (12MSP), the Philippines (13 MSP), and Lao PDR (3RC)

<sup>6</sup> CCM/MSP/2018/WP.3, Establishment of a Process for the Selection of the Presidency of the CCM