



## **WORK PLAN ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM) 2025 -2026**

### **Third Review Conference Cycle**

#### **Norway and Costa Rica**

#### **1. Background/Context**

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) remains a cornerstone of humanitarian disarmament, prohibiting the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions. Its universalization is essential to protect civilians and strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law.

Universalization efforts must be sustained in a context where multilateral norms are under pressure, humanitarian law is increasingly contested, and adherence to disarmament instrument cannot be assumed. In this environment the Third Review Conference (3RC) represents a key political opportunity to reaffirm, consolidate shared commitments, and encourage further accessions and ratifications.

Universalization is a collective responsibility under the Convention. In accordance with Article 21, each State Party undertakes to encourage States not party to this Convention to ratify, accept, approve or accede to it, with the goal of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention. Universalization efforts therefore benefit from coordinated engagement across the CCM community, including through sustained political outreach, practical support, and joint messaging in relevant diplomatic settings.

In this context, aside from the concrete actions envisaged in the work plan, universalization efforts will be supported through coordinated engagement across the CCM community. The “Informal Working Group on Universalization” provides a practical mechanism for States Parties and relevant partners to exchange information, align outreach priorities, and maintain momentum between formal meetings. During the Third Review Conference cycle, the Informal Working Group can be convened on a regular basis to support the Presidency and the Coordinators on Universalization, with facilitation by the Implementation support Unit (ISU).

#### **2. Strategic Objectives**

##### **Objective 1.- Protect the CCM Norm and Prevent further disengagement**

- Maintain adherence and political confidence in the Convention.
- Prevent additional withdrawals or destabilizing narratives.



#### Objective 2.-Increase membership and improve the quality of engagement

- Support targeted ratification/accession processes.
- Strengthen participation in CCM meetings beyond a single focal point.

#### Objective 3.- Make universalization more strategic and evidence-based

- Improve targeting, messaging, and follow up based on real barriers faced by States not party and signatory states.

#### Objective 4.- Use the Third Review Conference process to deliver practical universalization outcomes

- Ensure the Third Review Conference and its preparatory meetings generate visible universalization momentum and credible political messaging.

### **3. Priority Target Profiles**

- Signatory States that have not yet completed ratification;
- States Parties to APMB/CRPD not yet party to the CCM (strong humanitarian alignment);
- States engaged in mine action or humanitarian demining partnerships (high normative proximity);
- States that vote in favour of the annual UNGA CCM resolution but are not yet party to the CCM;
- States that have taken interim steps (statements supporting CCM norms, transparency reports, national policies);
- States whose participation is improving but inconsistent (engagement without accession);
- Leverage existing political and regional networks of States Parties and Coordinators to support universalization efforts

### **4. Concrete Activities**

- **High-impact diplomatic outreach (targeted, trackable)**

#### *a. Structured Bilateral Outreach Plan in Geneva:*

- ✓ Identify a “top 15” engagement list (mix of signatories and high-proximity states)



- ✓ Assign lead outreach responsibility (Norway/ Costa Rica) with the support of the Presidency and a “Convention regional champion”
- ✓ Maintain a simple follow-up log managed by the ISU: Contacted; Meeting held; Next Step Agreed.

*b. Capital to Capital Reinforcement*

- ✓ Encourage States Parties with strong bilateral ties to raise CCM in capital-level meetings
- ✓ Provide these States Parties with short “universalization messaging lines” (ISU supported).

**Deliverable:** at least 10 documented bilateral outreach meetings during the Third Review Conference cycle (Geneva and/or Capital level)

- **Third Review Conference driven messaging and political momentum**

- ✓ Discuss and prepare a short “universalization framing note” for the outreach efforts (with ISU support) including the following information:
  - Why Universalization matters now
  - How to speak about it without confrontation
  - How to invite engagement without naming/isolating specific States.
- ✓ Universalization segment in each Prep Meeting
  - Ensure universalization is visible in PM1 and PM2: A short, dedicated intervention or summary of activities undertaken to be referenced in each final report; a focused informal session (30 minutes) with practical outcomes.

**Deliverable:** Universalization language included in PM outcomes and the Third Review Conference messaging.

- **Regional outreach as a tool (not an end)**

- ✓ Two regional workshops in 2026:
  - ASEAN/SE Asia engagement through Lao PDR’s leadership role.
  - Regional engagement with countries in Africa



- Regional outreach may be pursued, with the support of the ISU, where opportunities arise, including through planned workshops, partner initiatives, or diplomatic engagement.
- Caribbean outreach, building on existing humanitarian and diplomatic networks, including engagement with CARICOM members not yet party to the CCM, through informal briefings, capital-to-capital dialogue, and coordination with interested States Parties

**Deliverable:** 1-2 regional engagements linked to real accession pathways.

- **Remove practical barriers to ratification/accession**

- ✓ Ratification support package (short and usable) In cooperation with the coordinator on National Implementation and ICRC:

- Short ratification steps note (very simple)
- Model Instrument of Accession Template
- Basic Q&A (defence/ legal concerns)
- Model legislative elements (if needed)

- ✓ **Light touch legislative support**

Work with the thematic coordinator on National Implementation Measures:

- Provide model clauses and options (not “one size fits all”)
- Focus on « minimum crédible implémentation »

**Deliverable:** a short universalization support package endorsed for use during the Third Review cycle.

- **Evidence -based targeting**

- ✓ Elaborate a *barrier mapping*, (based on the Ways Forward to Universalization, 2RC working document) through the following actions:

- Categorize barriers: legal/technical/ defence/security posture; regional political alignment; lack of awareness; not a priority/bandwidth.



**Deliverable:** An updated working paper on the barriers and a 1-page internal barrier map+ recommended engagement messages per barriers.

- **Strategic partnerships**

- ✓ Continue established partnerships with ICRC and CMC as “*engagement as multipliers*”:

- Align messaging (avoid duplication)
- Coordinate the use of toolkits and advocacy moments
- Identify where each actor adds value:

- ICRC: legal/IHL credibility and technical support
- CMC: civil society and political advocacy
- ISU: processes, diplomacy, continuity, and Convention coherence.

- **UN Treaty Section engagement (as relevant)**

- ✓ Ensure CCM visibility in relevant UN treaty promotion moments/events
- ✓ Target signatories with ratification gaps

## **5. Expected Outputs (updated, measurable, third Review Conference relevant)**

- By the Third Review Conference, the coordinators aim to achieve:
  - ✓ Sustain engagement with States Parties to support continued adherence to the Convention
  - ✓ At least one new State Party (aspirational but realistic language) or announcement to join the Convention;
  - ✓ At least 10 documented universalization engagement with target states;
  - ✓ A short, updated universalization support package finalized (ratification/accession steps/model elements);
  - ✓ An internal barrier map informing more strategic approach going forward.

## 6. Strategy implementers

- ✓ Universalization coordinators (Norway and Costa Rica)
- ✓ Third Review Conference Presidency and Troika
- ✓ Informal Group on Universalization
- ✓ ISU
- ✓ ICRC
- ✓ CMC
- ✓ Thematic Coordinator on National Implementation Measures
- ✓ Interested States Parties with regional leverage (“Champions”)
- ✓ UN Treaty Section/Relevant UN Partner (as appropriate).

## 7. Timeline of Activities:

### Ongoing activities

1. Bilateral and joint outreach to prioritised states.
2. Support for the President’s ongoing universalisation efforts.
3. Assist in facilitation of regional workshops to promote ratification/accession to the CCM.
4. Provide input to the universalisation sections of Review conference documents.
5. Bilateral exchanges with the Permanent Missions in Geneva of the States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the CCM.
6. Collaborate with CMC and the ICRC in their universalization efforts

### February 2026

First meeting in the Informal Working Group on Universalisation.

### March 2026

Second meeting in the Informal Working Group on Universalisation

Finalise support package for universalisation.

Finalise a top-15 list of prioritised countries.

### April-June 2026

Third and fourth meeting in the Informal Working Group on Universalisation.

### June-August 2026

Working paper on barriers submitted in June or July

### September 2026

Follow-up during the Review Conference