

## Convention on Cluster Munitions

# Thematic Working Group on Stockpile Destruction and Retention

## Workplan 2025-2026

### 1. Background and Workplan Context

Stockpile destruction is part of the obligations set by the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), with Article 3 paragraph 2 stating that

“Each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all cluster munitions [under its jurisdiction and control] ... as soon as possible but not later than eight years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party. Each State Party undertakes to ensure that destruction methods comply with applicable international standards for protecting public health and the environment.”

In 2025, all States Parties completed the destruction of their stockpiles, further strengthening the humanitarian norm of the Convention.

Furthermore, States Parties can exceptionally retain a number of cluster munitions abiding by Article 3 paragraph 6, which reads as follows

“Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1 of this Convention, the retention or acquisition of a limited number of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions for the development of and training in cluster munition and explosive submunition detection, clearance or destruction techniques, or for the development of cluster munition counter-measures, is permitted. The amount of explosive submunitions retained or acquired shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for these purposes.”

During the last two years, it is noteworthy that a number of States demonstrated their willingness to reduce the number of exceptionally retained cluster munitions. Given the success on the completion of the destruction of all the known stockpiles in the territory of States Parties, as indicated by the previous coordinator (Zambia) it is critical to focus on the implementation of Article 3(6).

In the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP), stockpile destruction and retention were covered by Actions 12 to 17. This year is key to take stock of past experience, collect and share the accumulated expertise, and discuss how to maintain the relevance of all the provisions set out in Article 3. Accordingly, the activities set out in this workplan, and the related objectives will inevitably inform the drafting of the action plan.

## 2. Objectives

- (a) Drawing on past experience, especially that of States that fulfilled Article-3 obligations, the coordinators will ensure that the new action plan (2027-2031) contains actions that reflect the progresses in the sector, maintaining the relevance of Article-3 obligations and adapting their implementation to the next context and emerging needs.
- (b) Encouraging the continuing fulfilment of Article-3 obligations, including those related to reporting and other obligations set at Article 3 paragraph 8.
- (c) Supporting the maintenance and development of the expertise related to stockpile destruction, relying on States Parties' expertise and relevant developments in the sectors, including those related to the protection of the environment and health.
- (d) Exploring synergies and links with other thematic areas of implementation of the Convention, including international cooperation and assistance, and universalisation.

## 3. Strategy

The Coordinators for Stockpile Destruction and Retention will undertake activities aimed at reaching the objectives set out earlier and achieving the expected outcomes set below.

### 3.1 *Bilateral and Multilateral Engagement*

with the view of establishing a lively community of practice on matters related to stockpile destruction in the context of the CCM Community, the Coordinators will

- Organise an event where
  - o States Parties that destroyed their stockpiles could share their experience, and relevant expertise on the matter are showcased and shared.
  - o Activities to guarantee the relevance of Article-3 obligations, including Article 3 paragraph 8, are discussed.

### 3.2 *Develop the Knowledge on Relevant Matters*

with the view of updating the knowledge on matters related to stockpile destruction and maintain the provisions at Article 3 relevant, the Coordinators will

- explore, in coordination with the ISU, how existing expertise on stockpile destruction can be showcased and shared among States.

#### 4. Expected Outcomes

At the end of this workplan, the following outcomes are expected to be achieved

- I. The new action plan will contain an adequate number of actions that reflect the needs and views on the matters of today's CCM community.
- II. Transparency with regard to retained cluster munitions is improved, when compared to the period of implementation of the LAP.
- III. A community of practice including interested States Parties and relevant stakeholders, including civil society, is established and maintained throughout the period of reference of this workplan and is set to remain active beyond it.
- IV. A discussion with other Coordinators on the possibility of linking stockpile destruction with other aspects of the implementation of the CCM, including universalisation, is initiated.

#### 5. Timeline

- **January 2026** participation to the Coordination Committee Retreat, coordinating thematic breakout group on stockpile destruction.
- **April 2026** the event on stockpile destruction expertise is organised.
- **May 2026** Drafting of the report from the April 2026 meeting.
- **May – June 2026** contributing to the drafting of the plan of action with ad hoc contributions regarding stockpile destruction.
- **September 2026** organisation of a side event during the Third Review Conference (3RC) to

#### 6. Estimated Budget

Limited costs, as most activities will be conducted either in Geneva or online.

#### 7. Strategic Actors

- Coordinators on stockpile destruction and retention (Peru and Burkina Faso)
- CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU)

#### 8. Potential Partners

- States Parties and Signatories that have fulfilled obligations under Article 3.
- ICRC
- ICBL-CMC
- States Parties in the position to provide relevant assistance
- Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Operators and other relevant organisations and stakeholders.