



Convention on Cluster Munitions

Basic Background Information

What is the Convention on Cluster Munitions?

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is an international legally binding instrument that addresses the humanitarian consequences and unacceptable harm to civilians caused by cluster munitions, weapons that are indiscriminate, due to their wide area effect and their long lasting contamination, which lasts decades after conflicts have ended due to the large number of unexploded ordnances they leave behind. These explosive remnants of war kill and injure civilians and obstruct economic and social development. The ICRC refers to cluster munitions as “*the weapon that keeps on killing*”.

The CCM was adopted in Dublin, Ireland on 30 May 2008, and signed in Oslo, Norway, on 3 December 2008. The Convention entered into force on 1 August 2010.

What is the aim of the Convention on Cluster Munitions?

State parties to this Convention are “*determined to put an end for all time to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions at the time of their use, when they fail to function as intended or when they are abandoned.*” (Preambular paragraph 2 CCM).

The operationalization of this aspiration is achieved through the following actions:

- Universally accepted ban of cluster munitions
- Destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions
- Clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and risk reduction education
- Provision of adequate victim assistance to cluster munition victims
- Provision of technical, material and financial assistance to State parties affected by cluster munitions.

The Lausanne Action Plan

To reinforce implementation efforts, the CCM States Parties have developed comprehensive 5-Year Action Plans. These *strategic frameworks* -the Vientiane Action Plan (2010-2015), Dubrovnik Action Plan (2015-2021), and [Lausanne Action Plan](#) (2021-2026)- provide guidance to States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention.

What is the Universalization Status of the Convention on Cluster Munitions?

- 112** States have ratified or acceded to the Convention.
- 12** States have signed the Convention
- 1** State has withdrawn from the Convention



Third Review Conference and the Next Action Plan

On 2026, the Third Review Conference of the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions will be held in Vientiane, from 14 to 18 September. As of April 2026, the works in preparation for the Review Conference, including the preliminary drafting of the key documents of the Conference, are ongoing.

Every review conference aims to produce three documents:

- A review document of the implementation of the previous action plan.
- A new action plan.
- A political declaration.

This is a critical moment for the life of the Convention, as the combination of the three documents and the work for and around them will lay the foundations for the next five years of implementation of the Convention.

80th Session UNGA 2025, Res 80/52 “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”

On 1 December 2025, the United Nations General Assembly voted on the 2025 resolution titled “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”, also known as the “Convention on Cluster Munitions Resolution”. The results were 131 votes in favour, 2 votes against, and 41 abstentions. This year, in favour votes increased of 10, although they remain below the levels of the period from 2021 to 2023. Notably, a group of 20 States, although being not party to the Convention, have constantly voted in favour of the resolution since 2021.

How much progress has the Convention on Cluster munitions made so far?

Stockpile destruction

All 41 States Parties who declared having stockpiles have fully complied with Article 3 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), resulting in the destruction of 100% of global cluster munitions declared by States Parties. This includes 1.5 million cluster munitions and 178.5 million submunitions.

Clearance of cluster munitions remnants

8 out of 18 State parties which declared having cluster munition contamination have been declared free of cluster munitions. Over 800 square kilometres have been declared free of cluster munitions and released for productive use.

National implementation measures

67 States Parties enacting national legislation to implement the Convention. Among these, 12 States Parties have also enacted laws that prohibit investments in such weapons.

Transparency measures

The initial transparency reporting rate stands at an impressive 95%, demonstrating the States Parties’ commitment to transparency, confidence building and accountability. Additionally, the



annual reporting rate in 2025 is at 60%, reflecting the continuous efforts made by States Parties to provide accurate and timely information on their implementation progress.

The Implementation Support Unit and Implementation Machinery

The implementation of the Convention is supported by a Secretariat called the Implementation Support Unit. The ISU is mandated to provide independent support and advice to State parties on the implementation of the Convention and to Convention's implementation machinery. Notably, it also serves as interface between State parties and the international community on issues related to the implementation of the Convention.

Overview of the main dispositions of the Convention on Cluster Munitions:

To achieve its main goals, the Convention establishes categorical prohibitions and a cooperative framework for implementation.

- *General Obligations “Prohibitions” and scope of application – Article 1 CCM*

The Convention bans under any circumstances to Use, Develop, Produce, Otherwise Acquire, Stockpile, Retain or Transfer to anyone, directly or indirectly, cluster munitions.

The Convention also bans under any circumstances to Assist, Encourage or Induce anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under the CCM. This is relevant regarding interoperability of state Parties and States not Parties in the context of military alliances.

The Convention provides a technical definition of “cluster munition”: a conventional munition that is designed to disperse or release explosive submunitions each weighing less than 20 kilograms and includes those explosive submunitions. It does not mean the following (...) (Article 2, paragraph 2).

There are no *exceptions* to the prohibition on cluster munitions, only *exclusions*.

- *General Obligations and Cooperative Framework for Implementation:*

Destruction of Stockpiles

The Convention requires each State party to destroy or ensure the destruction of all cluster munitions as soon as possible but no later than 8 years after the entry into force of the Convention for that State.

State parties may retain or acquire a limited number of cluster munitions (“the minimum number absolutely necessary” for the outlined purposes) for the development of and training in cluster munition and explosive submunition detection, clearance or destruction techniques or for the development of cluster munition countermeasures.

Clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants

The Convention requires each State party to clear and destroy, or ensure the clearance and destruction of, cluster munition remnants located in cluster munition contaminated areas under its jurisdiction or control.



The Convention requires that the clearance and destruction of cluster munitions be completed as soon as possible but not later than 10 years from the date of entry into force of the Convention for that State party.

If a State Party believes that it will be unable to clear and destroy or ensure the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants within the 10 years, it may submit a request to a Meeting of State Parties or a Review Conference for an extension of the deadline, by a period of up to 5 years.

Assistance to Victims

The preamble of the Convention mentions victim assistance in a number of paragraphs (6,7,8,9 and 10). The intention of State Parties as reflected in the preamble was included in the Convention text as follows: each State Party with cluster munition victims in areas under its jurisdiction or control shall, in accordance with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law, provide age- and gender sensitive assistance, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as provide for their social and economic inclusion (...)"

International Cooperation and Assistance

The Convention provides each State party with the right to seek and receive assistance in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. The Convention also requires each State party in a position to do so, to provide technical, material and financial assistance to State Parties affected by cluster munitions aimed at the implementation of the obligations of this Convention.

The State parties have also established a sponsorship programme to provide support to other State parties to ensure their participation in the formal and informal meetings of the Convention.

Transparency Measures

The Convention requires State parties to report on an annual basis to the Secretary General of the UN ("transparency report"). There are two types of transparency reports:

- a) The initial transparency report: which is due no later than 180 days after the entry into force of the Convention for that State party.
- b) The annual transparency report: the information provided in the initial report should be updated annually, covering the previous calendar year and reported to the Secretary General of the Convention no later than 30 April each year.

The items on which the State Party should inform/update are listed under article 7 letters A to N.

Measures to Ensure Compliance:

The Convention requires State parties to domesticate the Convention into their legal system, this means to take all legal, administrative and other measures to implement this Convention, including the imposition of penal sanctions to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State party.

The Convention establishes a Procedure to facilitate and clarify compliance in a cooperative spirit, stating that State parties agree to consult and cooperate with each other regarding the implementation of the provisions of this Convention and to work together in the spirit of



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cooperation to facilitate compliance by State parties. The clarification procedure established in the Convention contemplates a Request for Clarification on any given matter submitted through the Secretary-General of the UN; and the Secretary-General's good offices, to name a few.