

Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

3 September 2026

English only

Third Review Conference

Vientiane, 14–18 September 2026

Item 9 (k) of the provisional agenda

Review of the operation and status of the Convention and other matters important for achieving the aims of the Convention
Other matters important for achieving the aims of the Convention

Reflections and options regarding the Convention's machinery: Future Programme of Meetings*

Elements for consideration on the future Programme of Meetings

Submitted by the President of the Third Review Conference

I. Introduction

1. Article 12.2 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions provides, inter alia, that one of the purposes of the Review Conference is:

“to consider the need for and the interval between further Meetings of States Parties referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 11 of this Convention”.¹

2. The Review Conference provides an opportunity for States Parties to review, and, where necessary, adjust aspects of the Convention's machinery. Such consideration should focus on how the machinery can 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 the experience gained and views expressed regarding the Convention's implementation and meeting arrangements, with a view to ensuring that the decisions taken at the 3RC regarding the future programme of meetings remain responsive to current and emerging implementation needs, while allowing sufficient flexibility to adapt the programme to the circumstances and priorities of each annual cycle.

II. Background

4. The Second Review Conference (2RC) decided to convene a Meeting of States Parties annually, for up to four days, until the 3RC. It also provided for informal intersessional meetings in Geneva for up to two days, where decided by the annual Meeting of States Parties, with such meetings financed through voluntary contributions and interpretation

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

¹ Convention on Cluster Munitions, Article 12.2(b); CCM/CONF/2021/6, para. 1.



services provided in the languages of the Convention that are official languages of a State Party.²

5. Since the 2RC, annual Meetings of States Parties have continued to provide the principal formal forum for reviewing implementation, maintaining political momentum and taking decisions under the Convention. Intersessional meetings held during the current cycle have provided additional informal space for implementation-related discussions, including Article 3 and 4 extension requests and emerging issues concerning the Convention's norms and universalization.³

6. The Convention has also gained experience from holding Meetings of States Parties outside Geneva, including in affected States, providing opportunities to promote ownership, visibility and universalization.⁴

7. In preparations for the 3RC, States Parties reflected on options for the future programme of meetings, including on the basis of CCM/CONF/2026/PM.1/WP.2. The views expressed during the First Preparatory Meeting provided further guidance for their refinement. In particular, States Parties:

(a) emphasized the importance of continued annual formal meetings, including in light of decision-making under Article 4 and the continuing political dimensions of the Convention during the next review cycle, leading to the Fourth Review Conference (4RC) in 2031.

(b) stressed the value of informal dialogue in maintaining political momentum and monitoring implementation, including on extension requests under Articles 3 and 4 and challenges relating to withdrawal, transfer, use and production, destruction of retained cluster munitions and submunitions, protection of the Convention's norms and universalization;

(c) emphasized the importance of efficiency and cost-effectiveness, including by taking into account the financial implications of different meeting arrangements, including the implications of hosting meetings in different locations and for assessed contributions, while recalling that intersessional meetings rely on voluntary contributions;

(d) emphasized efficiency and avoidance of duplication, including by exploring opportunities to schedule meetings consecutively with other relevant meetings, such as those of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, United Nations conventional weapons processes and meetings of national mine action directors, where appropriate. States Parties also encouraged the exploration of innovative approaches to avoid duplication and maximize opportunities for participation, including potential joint thematic sessions where appropriate. At the same time, it was noted that any co-hosting or joint sessions would require consideration of differences in membership, mandates, financial arrangements and practical implications, as well as consultation with the relevant institutions and States Parties;

(e) emphasized the importance of flexibility for successive Presidencies and States Parties to adapt the programme of meetings to differing implementation challenges and priorities; and

(f) expressed differing views on whether intersessional meetings should be convened annually or on a needs-based basis.

8. Taking into account the experience gained during the current review cycle, the options previously outlined in CCM/CONF/2026/PM.1/WP.2, and the views expressed during the preparatory process, the Presidency has refined the possible elements for consideration by the 3RC as set out below.

² CCM/CONF/2021/6, para. 84(ii).

³ CCM/CONF/2026/PM.1/WP.2, paras. 11–16.

⁴ Ibid., para. 9.

III. Proposed elements for consideration

9. Without prejudging the decisions of the 3RC, the Presidency presents the following elements for consideration pursuant to Article 12.2 (b) on the need for and the interval between further Meetings of States Parties:

A. Annual Meeting of States Parties

10. Convene annually, until the 4RC in 2031, a Meeting of States Parties for up to four days, with the date, duration and location determined in accordance with the Convention and relevant decisions of States Parties, taking into account the circumstances and substantive requirements of each annual meeting.

11. Geneva would remain the default location. Unless its President decides to host the meeting in another venue,

in accordance with paragraph 30(d) of Final Report of the First Review Conference (CCM/CONF/2015/7), as suggested to be extended in paragraph 13. Where a Meeting of States Parties is hosted elsewhere, any costs beyond those that would otherwise be incurred for a meeting in Geneva would be borne by the host, in accordance with applicable arrangements and decisions of States Parties.⁵

12. Recognizing the value of holding Meetings of States Parties in affected States and other locations, States Parties in a position to do so are encouraged to support a State Party wishing to host a Meeting of States Parties outside Geneva where it faces capacity or resource constraints in doing so.

13. States Parties may also wish to consider extending paragraph 30(d) of the Final report of the First Review Conference (CCM/CONF/2015/7) to refer, in addition to Meetings of States Parties, to “conferences of States Parties pursuant to Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention”.

B. Informal intersessional meetings

14. Provide for the possibility of informal intersessional meetings, normally in Geneva and for up to two days, where States Parties determine that such meetings are warranted.

15. Where possible, intersessional meetings should be scheduled consecutively with other relevant meetings to enhance efficiency and minimize travel and participation costs. Innovative approaches to avoid duplication, including potential joint thematic sessions, could be explored where appropriate and subject to consultation with relevant institutions and States Parties.

16. For 2027, the President of the 14MSP could identify dates and develop a programme for an intersessional meeting, should States Parties determine that such a meeting is warranted, in consultation with the Coordination Committee.

17. For subsequent annual cycles, each Meeting of States Parties could decide whether intersessional meetings should be convened taking into account substantive and political developments and implementation needs, matters requiring consideration before the next Meeting of States Parties, including, where relevant, requests for extensions under Articles 3 and 4, the value of maintaining informal dialogue and political momentum, opportunities for consecutive scheduling, the availability of voluntary contributions, and the need to avoid duplication.

18. Intersessional meetings would be financed through voluntary contributions. Interpretation services would be provided in the languages of the Convention that are official languages of a State Party, subject to the availability of voluntary funding.

⁵ CCM/CONF/2015/7, para. 30(d).