



Frequently Asked Questions

Why should my country join the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)?

The Convention on Cluster Munitions offers your country a chance to:

- **Protect civilians:** Cluster munitions cause devastating harm to civilians long after conflicts end. Joining the CCM demonstrates your commitment to preventing this suffering.
- **Uphold international law:** The use of cluster munitions is widely condemned as illegal. By joining the CCM, your country aligns itself with humanitarian principles.
- **Become part of a global movement:** To date, 124 states have already committed to the goals of the Convention. Joining this community strengthens the international norm against these weapons.

What do states unaffected by cluster munitions get out of joining the CCM?

Even if your country has not been impacted by cluster munitions, joining the CCM offers significant advantages:

- **Stronger Global Norm:** Your membership strengthens the international ban on these weapons, making it less likely for them to be used anywhere.
- **Humanitarian Commitment:** Joining sends a clear message condemning the use of cluster munitions and the suffering they cause civilians worldwide.
- **Upholding International Law:** The CCM aligns with international humanitarian law (IHL) regarding the use of weapons.
- **Disarmament Partnerships:** Collaboration with other CCM members fosters cooperation on broader disarmament efforts.
- **Preventing Future Harm:** Your participation helps prevent the future use and proliferation of these dangerous weapons.

Why should my country join if others in the region have not yet done so?

Beyond the reasons outlined above, your country can take the opportunity to:

- **Become a regional champion:** Be the first to take a stand against cluster munitions and inspire others to follow. This leadership strengthens regional security.
- **Show commitment to peace and security:** Joining demonstrates a strong commitment to international peace and security leading to a future free from the threat of cluster munitions.

What if it is unlikely that my country will meet its obligations within the stipulated deadline?

Each State Party must destroy its cluster munition stockpiles within 8 years (Article 3) and clear its territory of cluster munition remnants within 10 years (Article 4). If a State Party is unlikely to meet these deadlines, the Convention allows for extension requests, recognizing that some countries may face practical challenges in fulfilling these obligations. At the same time, joining the Convention provides access to technical expertise and, potential financial assistance from the international community, which can help accelerate survey and clearance efforts.

What are the financial implications of joining the CCM?

States Parties contribute to the implementation of the Convention through two established mechanisms:

Assessed Contributions to support Meetings of States Parties and Review Conferences, calculated according to the United Nations scale of assessment and an annual contribution to the work of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), established in May 2015, which facilitates and coordinates the work of the Convention, based on the same UN scale and shared among States Parties.

Contributions are proportionate to each State's capacity to pay. For example, a State with a UN scale of assessment of 0.005 would contribute approximately USD 55 annually.

What must my country do to join the Convention?

Submit an instrument of ratification or accession to the UN Secretary-General, who serves as the Convention's depositary. A ratification kit in English, French, Spanish and Arabic is available [here](#).

What assistance is available to States Parties to implement its CCM obligations?

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) recognizes the challenges some countries face in meeting their obligations. Here's how the CCM helps:

- **Technical and Financial Assistance:** Article 6 allows States Parties to request and receive technical, material and financial assistance to implement their obligations from States Parties in a position to provide such support.
- **Travel Support:** A Sponsorship Programme helps affected and low-income countries participate in key meetings.
- **Country Coalitions:** This initiative connects states needing assistance with donors and experts, tailoring support to specific needs.
- **Online Resources:** The CCM website <https://www.clusterconvention.org/> provides a wealth of resources, including:
 - A guide to joining the Convention (ratification kit)
 - Model legislation for different legal systems
 - Tools to assess existing national laws for compliance with the CCM
 - Article 7 Reporting templates.Under Article 7 States Parties submit annual transparency reports on the measures they have taken to implement the Convention. Transparency reporting helps build

confidence among States Parties, supports international cooperation and assistance, and enables the Convention Community to track progress in implementation. The Implementation Support Unit assists States Parties in preparing and submitting their reports.

What can I do to raise awareness about the CCM when it's not a priority for my government?

Successful strategies outlined by States that have joined the Convention include:

- Appointing a focal point in the capital to handle all CCM-related matters.
- Targeting decision-makers at various levels, including politicians, parliamentarians and technical experts in relevant ministries.
- Establishing a multi-disciplinary CCM task force or committee to enhance coordination among national stakeholders.
- Conducting inclusive consultations domestically with civil society members, academics, scientists and local communities.
- Incorporating discussions on the CCM into the agendas of different meetings.
- Leveraging National International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Committees, if available, to advocate for the CCM.
- Engaging with regional platforms to initiate dialogue on the CCM.
- Participating in regional events focused on the CCM.
- Contacting the CCM ISU, the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) and/or the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for technical assistance, in-depth briefings, country visits, organization of workshops, and sharing of best practices and resources.

For more information

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