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

National Implementation Measures

Methodology for the National Implementation Support Initiative (NIM Clinics)

A Tailored Package Approach to Strengthening National Implementation under Article 9 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Submitted by the Coordinator on National Implementation Measures (Panama)

I. Purpose

1. This working paper presents a proposed methodology for the National Implementation Support Initiative (NIM clinics), a practical implementation support mechanism designed to assist States Parties in strengthening national implementation measures under Article 9 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
2. The Initiative seeks to complement existing implementation support by bringing together the various forms of assistance already available under the Convention into a coherent, structured and demand-driven package tailored to the specific needs of individual States Parties. Through one coordinated process, States Parties gain access to legislative expertise, institutional advice, implementation planning, peer experience, technical cooperation opportunities, follow-up, and practical roadmaps.
3. Rather than introducing new obligations or creating additional reporting requirements, the Initiative aims to improve access to existing expertise and strengthen national implementation capacities through coordinated and practical support.

II. Rationale

4. Implementation experience accumulated since the Convention entered into force demonstrates that effective national implementation cannot be achieved through legislation alone. States Parties frequently require support across multiple areas simultaneously, including:

- Legislative drafting;
- Institutional coordination;
- Administrative arrangements;
- Operational procedures;

- Implementation guidance;
 - Transparency reporting;
 - Identification of technical assistance;
 - Exchange of good practices.
5. At present, these forms of support are often delivered independently by different actors. The proposed Initiative seeks to package these elements into a single implementation support process adapted to the circumstances of each requesting State Party.

III. Guiding Principles

6. The Initiative would be guided by six principles.
- Demand-driven: Participation remains entirely voluntary and responds to requests from interested States Parties.
 - Tailored: Support is adapted to national legal, institutional and operational circumstances. No two implementation packages are expected to be identical.
 - Comprehensive: Implementation measures are considered as part of an integrated national implementation system rather than isolated legislative exercises.
 - Partnership-based: The Initiative builds upon the comparative advantages of the CCM community, interested States Parties and other implementation partners.
 - Practical: Support focuses on solving concrete implementation challenges and identifying achievable next steps.
 - Sustainable: The Initiative promotes national ownership and seeks to strengthen long-term implementation capacity.

IV. Proposed Implementation Methodology

7. The Initiative would follow five successive phases.
- Phase I: National Implementation Assessment: An initial dialogue with the requesting State Party to identify national implementation priorities. Areas for discussion could include:
 - existing legislation;
 - regulations;
 - institutional responsibilities;
 - implementation challenges;
 - Article 7 reporting;
 - ongoing legislative initiatives;
 - technical assistance needs.

Output: *Initial National Implementation Profile.*

- Phase II: Comprehensive Diagnostic Review. A structured review of the State Party's implementation framework. The objective is not simply to determine whether legislation exists, but whether national implementation arrangements effectively enable implementation of the Convention. The review would consider:
 - legal measures;
 - administrative measures;
 - institutional coordination;
 - operational implementation;
 - dissemination;
 - implementation capacities.

Output: *Gap analysis and implementation priorities.*

- Phase III: Tailored Support Package. Based on the diagnostic review, an implementation package would be developed. Possible components include:
 - Legislative review;
 - Comments on draft legislation;
 - Examples of legislation from other States Parties;
 - Institutional mapping;
 - Implementation guidance;
 - Peer exchanges;
 - Expert advice;
 - Technical cooperation opportunities.

Each package would reflect national priorities.

- Phase IV: National Implementation Roadmap. The Initiative would support participating States Parties in preparing a practical roadmap identifying:
 - Priority actions;
 - Responsible institutions;
 - Indicative timelines;
 - Technical assistance requirements;
 - Possible partners.

The roadmap would remain under national ownership.

- Phase V: Follow-up and Implementation Support. Implementation support would continue beyond the initial Clinic. Follow-up could include:
 - Progress reviews;
 - Additional expert advice;
 - Peer exchanges;
 - Identification of further cooperation opportunities;
 - Updates to the implementation roadmap.

V. Expected Value Added

8. The proposed methodology introduces several innovations. Rather than providing isolated legal assistance, the Initiative offers a coordinated package of implementation support tailored to national circumstances. It:

- Integrates existing implementation support resources within the CCM implementation frameworks;
- Promotes coordination among implementation partners;
- Strengthens national ownership;
- Supports implementation across multiple Convention obligations;
- Facilitates peer learning;
- Provides continuity through follow-up;
- Contributes to implementation of the Vientiane Capital Action Plan.

VI. Expected Outputs

9. Participating States Parties could receive:

- A National Implementation Profile;
- A diagnostic assessment;
- A tailored implementation support package;
- A National Implementation Roadmap;

- Continued follow-up support where requested.

VII. Looking Ahead

10. The proposed methodology is intended as a living implementation support tool that can evolve through experience and feedback from States Parties.

11. Over time, the Initiative may contribute to the development of a community of practice on National Implementation Measures, strengthening cooperation among national authorities, implementation partners and experts while supporting more effective implementation of the Convention.

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