

Third Review Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (3RC)

Report of the Coordinator on Transparency Measures

Australia

14 - 18 September 2026

President,

It is my honour to present the report of the Coordinator on Transparency Measures.

Transparency reporting is a cornerstone of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It promotes accountability, builds confidence among States Parties, facilitates cooperation and assistance, and enables us to assess progress towards achieving our shared humanitarian objectives. Transparency is not simply an administrative requirement; it is a practical tool that supports implementation across all pillars of the Convention.

Australia has been privileged to serve as Coordinator on Transparency Measures for three consecutive terms. Throughout this period, we have worked closely with the Convention's Implementation Support Unit, successive Presidencies, States Parties and civil society partners to strengthen reporting compliance, encourage the exchange of information, and advance practical measures to make reporting more accessible and effective.

During the final year of implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan, reporting levels remained broadly consistent with previous years. By the Article 7 reporting deadline of 30 April 2026, 51 States Parties had submitted their annual transparency reports. By 30 June 2026, a further 12 reports had been received, bringing the total to 63 reports. While this demonstrates continuing commitment by many States Parties, it also underscores the importance of ongoing efforts to support States Parties in meeting their reporting obligations in a timely manner.

It is encouraging that 41 States Parties utilised the revised Article 7 reporting format adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties. Continued uptake of the revised format reflects growing acceptance of a more comprehensive and systematic reporting framework, including improved reporting on gender and diversity considerations, international cooperation and assistance, and national implementation measures.

At the same time, challenges remain. No State Party submitted an initial Article 7 report during the last reporting period. There also continues to be a persistent gap between reporting obligations and reporting performance. Across the last five years, progress reports have consistently highlighted the number of States Parties that either fail to submit reports altogether or submit them significantly after the deadline.

The quality and completeness of reporting also varies considerably. While some States Parties provide comprehensive reports supported by detailed data and narrative explanations, others continue to submit limited information, relying on "no change" updates or references to previous reports without providing substantive information on developments. This can make it more difficult to assess implementation progress, identify needs, and target assistance effectively.

During the 2025-2026 reporting period, one State Party reported receiving assistance to prepare its Article 7 report, demonstrating the value of targeted support and peer cooperation in strengthening national reporting capacity.

Many States Parties continue to face genuine challenges in meeting their reporting obligations. Recognising these persistent challenges, Australia submitted a working paper at the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties entitled Practical Measures to Enhance Transparency Reporting under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM/MSP/2025/12). The working paper noted that many States Parties continue to experience difficulties in meeting their reporting obligations due to limited institutional capacity, competing reporting requirements across multiple disarmament instruments, lack of familiarity with reporting formats, and insufficient practical guidance and support mechanisms. These challenges contribute to late submissions, incomplete reporting, and in some cases the continued non-submission of reports. The paper emphasised the importance of a pragmatic and supportive approach that recognises these constraints while reinforcing transparency as a core treaty obligation.

Australia's working paper proposed a number of practical measures to strengthen reporting outcomes across the Convention. These included enhanced guidance materials and reporting support for States Parties, regular reminders of reporting deadlines, awareness-raising and outreach activities by the Implementation Support Unit, targeted capacity-building support for national focal points, and greater coordination between transparency mechanisms across conventional arms control instruments. The paper also encouraged measures to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on States Parties and improve the accessibility and effectiveness of reporting processes. The objective of these proposals is to improve reporting quality and timeliness while ensuring that Article 7 reports remain valuable tools for implementation, cooperation and assistance.

Australia also advanced this work through practical engagement with States Parties. Earlier this year, Australia convened an informal working group on enhancing transparency reporting, bringing together States Parties, the Implementation Support Unit and other stakeholders to share experiences and discuss practical approaches to improving reporting outcomes. The discussion reinforced support for enhanced guidance, capacity-building and greater coordination across reporting frameworks.

A key objective of our work has also been promoting greater coherence and synergies across transparency reporting frameworks in the wider conventional arms control architecture. Many States are required to report under multiple instruments. Improved coordination, practical guidance, and streamlined approaches can help reduce reporting burdens while improving the quality and usefulness of information provided.

Over recent years, there has been a growing recognition that transparency reports can serve purposes beyond compliance alone. They can support resource mobilisation, facilitate coordination among partners, and strengthen advocacy for the Convention's humanitarian objectives. However, this potential remains underutilised. We encourage States Parties to view reporting not merely as an obligation, but as an opportunity to communicate achievements, identify challenges, and attract support for implementation efforts.

President,

Transparency and the open exchange of information remain essential to the effectiveness and credibility of this Convention. The progress we have seen demonstrates that many States Parties recognise this responsibility. However, continued efforts will be required to improve reporting rates, timeliness, completeness and overall quality.

Australia thanks the Convention's Implementation Support Unit, UNODA, fellow Coordinators, civil society partners and all States Parties that have contributed to strengthening transparency over the review period. We encourage all States Parties to continue working together to achieve universal compliance with Article 7 obligations and to ensure that transparency remains a powerful driver of implementation, cooperation and humanitarian impact.

Thank you.