

FACT SHEET

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was opened for signature in Oslo on 3 December 2008 and entered into force on 1 August 2010. The purpose of the Convention is to provide a comprehensive international response to the suffering caused by the use of cluster munitions and their remnants and to prevent the proliferation and future use of these unreliable and inaccurate weapons.



The Scope of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

- A cluster munition is a weapon consisting of a container or dispenser from which many sub-munitions or bomblets are scattered over wide areas. Many sub-munitions are unreliable and fail to explode, thus creating a potential humanitarian impact on civilians both during as well as long after the conflict.
- The Convention prohibits under any circumstances the use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions, as well as the assistance or encouragement of anyone to engage in prohibited activities;
- Eight years after joining the Convention each State party must destroy all its stocks of cluster munitions;
- Ten years after joining the Convention each State party must clear and destroy or ensure the clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants located in contaminated areas;
- Each State party has the right to seek and receive assistance and each State party in a position to do so must provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions, clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants, victim assistance, and contribute to the social and economic recovery of the effected States parties;
- Each State Party must provide age- and gender-sensitive assistance to cluster munition victims, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, social and economic inclusion;
- Each State party must report annually on the measures taken to implement the Convention;
- The Convention also contains a set of compliance and confidence building measures.

“This Convention is a concrete example of how partnership in strengthening the rule of law can prevent suffering and save lives.”

From the Secretary-General’s message to the Fourth Meeting of States parties to the Convention, 9 September 2013

CCM Implementation Machinery

Annual Meetings of States parties are hosted by one of the States parties to the Convention. These meetings consider the status and operation of the Convention as well as matters arising from annual transparency reports. The States parties take stock of progress and review challenges in implementation of the CCM. Decisions are taken on requests for extension of deadlines for destruction of stocks and the clearance of cluster munitions. The States parties also consider and take decisions on matters of compliance, cooperation, assistance and the Convention's universalization. Informal intersessional meetings of experts are held annually to assist in implementing key issues to the Convention, such as its operation, victim assistance, clearance, stockpile destruction, cooperation and assistance. An Implementation Support Unit (Secretariat) will be established by 2015 to assist the States parties in the implementation of the Convention.

The Role of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

In close partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the States parties and civil society, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) provides support and facilitates the implementation of the Convention at the international level. The Office is involved in the organisation of the annual Meetings of States parties to the Convention, assisting Member States in their national implementation efforts and raising awareness and promoting the universalization of the Convention.

UNODA has been delegated some key responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the Convention. In particular, UNODA is responsible for:

- convening and organising the annual Meetings of States parties to the CCM, providing administrative and logistical support, and serving as the secretariat to these meetings;
- maintaining the database of annual national reports submitted by the States parties pursuant to article 7 of the Convention;
- supporting the Secretary-General in the implementation of his/her responsibilities aimed at facilitation and clarification of compliance under article 8 of the Convention;
- participating in activities to promote its universalization and assisting the Secretary-General in his/her demarches to promote the Convention among the States not yet party.

CCM Implementation Facts

- Cluster munitions have been used in 36 countries and 4 disputed territories.
- A total of 34 States have developed or produced more than 200 types of cluster munitions. Seventeen former producer States of cluster munitions have so far joined the CCM.
- To date, 84 States have ratified or otherwise acceded to the Convention.
- Fifteen States parties have already destroyed their stockpiles of cluster munitions. The total number of already destroyed cluster munitions is 744,231 (85,5 million submunitions). Prior to commencing efforts to ban cluster munitions, 86 countries stockpiled cluster munitions containing over 1 billion submunitions.
- At least 30 States and three other cluster munition-affected territories have reported cluster munition victims. Eleven of them are States parties to the CCM and two are Signatories.

For more information: www.unog.ch/ccm