

Memo on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Intersessional Meeting

Geneva, Switzerland, 7-9 April 2014

[Venue: World Meteorological Organization (WMO) building, 7 bis, Avenue de la Paix, Geneva]

Official Convention website: <http://www.clusterconvention.org>

Official conference webpage: <http://www.clusterconvention.org/meetings/intersessional-meetings/april-2014>

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Intersessional Meeting will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 7-9 April 2014.

This annual meeting, convened between the required meetings of States Parties, brings together government representatives from States Parties, signatory states and non-signatory states to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in addition to UN agencies, international organisations, civil society and cluster munition survivors.

States Parties and Signatory states are invited to participate to take stock of the **progress made** so far in implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and to discuss **plans developed** and any **challenges** or obstacles they are facing, as well as any **requirements for international assistance**. It is an opportunity for Signatory states to come ready to make **announcements** on ratification. Non-signatories are encouraged to attend to announce progress on acceding to the Convention or to take the opportunity to learn more about the life-saving Convention and its obligations. There will also be an update on the preparations for the Fifth Meeting of States Parties (5MSP) that will take place in San José, Costa Rica from 2- 5 September 2014. The Intersessional meeting is an opportunity to discuss and gain clarity on implementing the convention in time for the 5MSP.

1. Government registration and sponsorship

- **Invitations:** A [letter of invitation](#) was sent on 28 February to every country (States Parties, Signatory and Non-Signatory states) via the Zambian mission in Geneva from Wylbur C. Simuusa, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia and President of the 4MSP.
- **Register:** Delegates can register for the meeting here: <http://www.ccm-registration.org/menu/registration/> Please note it is necessary to register separately for the other relevant meetings taking place in April [Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and UN Advisors, 31 March - 2 April; Meetings of Experts on Amended Protocol II and Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), 1-4 April; Informal intersessional work and the second formal preparatory meeting in advance of the Third Review Conference to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), 9-11 April.]
- **Sponsorship:** A limited sponsorship programme for low income and affected countries is available subject to availability of funding. For further information, please contact the Interim Implementation Support Unit (ISU) at UNDP/BCPR via ccm.contact@undp.org.
- **Delegations:** This is a working level meeting, so ensure the most relevant representatives attend. This is most probably a policy-level delegate and a technical expert from the relevant Ministries. If you come from a cluster munition affected country, consider including a victim assistance expert or a survivor on your delegation as committed to in the Vientiane Action Plan.
- **Visa:** Delegates are responsible for their own visa arrangements. More information on visa requirements can be found here: <http://www.ccm-registration.org/menu/visa-information-for-switzerland/>

2. Prepare for the meeting

All states should come to the Intersessional meeting prepared to give clear and detailed updates on **progress** made, **challenges met** and **plans developed** to universalise or implement the Convention, including the items below.

- **Universalisation:**
 - States yet to ratify or accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions should use the coming weeks to make progress on ratification or accession ahead of the Intersessional meeting – and should **prepare a statement reporting on progress to deliver during the session on universalisation**.
 - States Parties should use the opportunity to fulfil their Article 21 obligations by persuading other states to join the treaty and reporting on these efforts during the session on universalisation.
- **Use of cluster munitions:**
 - All countries should make their position clear on use of cluster munitions, particularly the ongoing use in Syria and recent reports of use in South Sudan, by issuing a **statement of condemnation**. States Parties should fulfil their **Article 21.2** obligation to '*discourage States not party to this Convention from using cluster munitions*'. Non-signatory and observer states should also speak out against use of this weapon.
 - Visit http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/south_sudan for more information and a memo on the evidence of use of cluster munitions in South Sudan.
 - Visit <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/syria> for more information and a memo on the ongoing use of cluster munitions in Syria.
- **Vientiane Action Plan:**
 - Governments should **prepare updates** to the conference on the progress being made to implement the Convention using the framework of the 2010 Vientiane Action Plan (see below).
 - Governments can take the opportunity of the Intersessionals meeting to **seek advice** and support on any challenges faced implementing the treaty.

3. Deliver results

In the Vientiane Action Plan (<http://www.clusterconvention.org/documents/action-plan>) adopted in 2010, States Parties committed to:

- Have a plan in place for **stockpile destruction** within one year^{*}, including a timeline and budget. Start destruction as soon as possible.
- Increase capacities for **clearance** and **risk reduction education**. Identify contaminated areas within one year*. Develop and start to implement a national clearance plan within one year*.
- Increase capacities for **victim assistance**. Designate a victim assistance focal point within six months**. Collect all necessary data, have a coordination mechanism in place and review relevant national laws and policies within one year*.
- Identify needs for **cooperation and assistance** within one year*. For states in a position to do so, promptly assist States Parties that have requested support.
- Submit initial **transparency report** within six months** as required by the Convention and annually on 30 April each year. The reporting template can be found here: www.clusterconvention.org/documents/transparency-reports. Signatory and observer states are encouraged to submit voluntary transparency reports.
- Adopt **national implementation measures** such as legislation as a matter of urgency.
- Respond in a robust manner to cases of non-compliance.

^{*} Within one year of the entry into force of the Convention for each state.

^{**} Within six months of the entry into force of the Convention for each state.