

Statement on Transparency Measures
7th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
5 September 2017



Thank you, Mr. President.

Since the beginning of this meeting, the CMC has been pleased to hear updates from participating states about their progress and remaining challenges in implementing the Convention.

The link between the information exchanged during this meeting and the nature of Article 7 transparency reports is clear. In order to reach the objectives of the Convention and the commitments made under the Dubrovnik Action Plan, we need to be regularly informed about the status of their implementation by States Parties. We need to be able to make a reliable assessment of what has been accomplished, what is left to do, and what are the plans for the future.

Information shared in transparency reports is helpful for all stakeholders of the mine action community, notably potential donors or other organizations providing support.

Transparency reporting is a strong tool to enhance activities of States Parties, in particular those that have obligations on clearance, stockpile destruction, and victim assistance. It indicates when operations are on track, facilitates the identification of needs, and provides warnings when difficulties or specific constraints are faced. Therefore, good quality and timely reports can only help states in effectively planning their activities, and in ensuring the optimal use and allocation of resources.

Mr. President, to date, only half of all States Parties have submitted a transparency report detailing actions taken in 2016. This is far from enough. It means that too few states have lived up to their responsibilities, and that 45 States Parties are not in compliance with their reporting obligation. For some of these states, this has been the case for a number of years.

It is unfortunate that 27 states have not yet submitted their updated annual transparency reports, while another 18 states are late in submitting their initial transparency reports including states that are believed to possess stockpiles of cluster munitions. The submission of transparency reports is not optional but a duty for all States Parties. Article 7 reports are a good indicator of States' commitment to the goals of the Convention and play a key role in building confidence. We urge those states to turn in their reports without further delay.

In sum, transparency reporting is an essential step to make sure the Convention is successfully implemented, and it should not be overlooked. With that in mind, we look forward to reading more reports in the future, and we stand ready to assist you with their preparation.

Thank you.