

Statement on Transparency

9th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

2-4 September 2019



Thank you, Mr. President.

Transparency is a corner stone of success in this convention. Transparency refers to the availability of information relevant to a States fulfillment of its obligations under the convention. Transparency deters violations of the norm of non-use of cluster munitions and reassures other states that the norm is being observed. Transparency builds confidence within and without the Convention. The confidence-building aspects of this convention should not be undervalued as we live in a multilateral system with little trust.

States Parties are obliged to submit an initial transparency report within 180 days of the Convention taking effect for that country. An updated report is due by 30 April each year thereafter, covering activities in the previous calendar year.

This is not an optional activity. Eleven States Parties are late in providing their initial transparency reports, including three with reports that were originally due during 2011! None of these states have explained why they have failed to submit the transparency report as required by the convention.

Does this build confidence? Do you care?!

40% of states with Article 7 transparency reports due by 30 April this year are yet to submit them. These States Parties are not in compliance with their reporting obligation.

Does this build confidence? Do you care?!

As we approach the Second Review Conference, it is time to reflect on the action points you set for yourselves in the Dubrovnik Action Plan: to report in time, initially and annually; and to make practical use of the reporting.

Transparency reporting should not be seen as a burden, but a strong tool to enhance activities of States Parties, in particular those with obligations on clearance, stockpile destruction, and victim assistance will find that the regular annual reports can only help states effectively plan their activities, and ensure the optimal use and allocation of resources.

The Cluster Munition Coalition takes note of the fact that only a few states have used voluntary Form J to report on actions to promote universalization and discourage use of cluster munitions, or to provide details on cooperation and assistance support, or to report on other important matters such as their position on interpretive issues.

The CMC continues to encourage states to submit their transparency reports by the deadline and provide complete information, including definitive statements. Timely submission of the report is a legal obligation. Comprehensive submissions build a strong convention.

In closing the CMC would direct States Parties to read further the Transparency section of the Cluster Munition Monitor report released on the first day of this meeting.

Thank you.