
Convention on Cluster Munitions

Date

English only

Eleventh Meeting of States Parties

Geneva, 11-14 September 2023

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

Consideration and adoption of the final document of the Meeting

Final report of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with article 11 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the decisions of the First Review Conference (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 7- 11 September 2015), the Second Review Conference of the Convention (Geneva, 25 - 27 November 2020 and 20 and 21 September 2021) decided to convene annually, until the Third Review Conference, a Meeting of States Parties for up to four days.

2. By operative paragraph 9 of resolution 77/79, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and to continue to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be necessary to fulfil the tasks entrusted to him by the Convention and the relevant decisions of the Second Review Conference. Accordingly, and in compliance with article 11 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Secretary-General of the United Nations convened the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties and invited all States Parties, as well as States not parties to the Convention, to participate in the Meeting.

3. At the Tenth Meeting of States Parties, the States Parties confirmed the designation of Mr. Abdul Karim Hashim Mustafa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office in Geneva, as the President of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties. In accordance with the decision taken at the First Review Conference, his term commenced on the day following the conclusion of the Tenth Meeting of States Parties until the last day of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties.

II. Organization of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties

4. The Eleventh Meeting of States Parties was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11 to 14 September 2023.

5. Ms. Pamela Moraga, Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, participated in the work of the Meeting.

6. Ms. Silvia Mercogliano, Political Affairs Officer, Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary of the Meeting.

7. The following States Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Meeting: Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, Ireland,

Italy, Japan, Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zambia.

8. The following States signatories to the Convention participated in the work of the Meeting as observers: Angola, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, and United Republic of Tanzania.

9. Argentina, Armenia, Cambodia, Finland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Thailand, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe also participated in the work of the Meeting as observers.

10. The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) also participated in the work of the Meeting as observers, pursuant to rule 1 (2) of the rules of procedure.

11. The European Union, Center for Countermeasures against Chemical and Biological Warfare Agents (CCACBWA), Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), James Madison University, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian's People's Aid and The HALO Trust also took part in the work of the Meeting as observers, pursuant to rule 1 (3) of the rules of procedure.

III. Work of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties

12. On 11 September 2023, the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties was opened by H.E. Mr. Abdul Karim Hashim Mustafa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

13. The Meeting held seven formal plenary meetings.

14. At the first plenary meeting on 11 September 2023, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and Dr. Gilles Carbonnier, Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delivered video messages to the Meeting. Statements were also made by H.E. Mr. Julien Thoeni, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament, and Ms. Phommachanthone of the Cluster Munition Coalition.

15. At the same meeting, Ms. Carolyne Mélanie Régimbal, Chief of Service, Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, was confirmed as Secretary-General of the Meeting.

16. At the same meeting, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected by acclamation Vice-Presidents of the Meeting.

17. At the same meeting, the provisional agenda (CCM/MSP/2023/1) and the provisional annotated programme of work (CCM/MSP/2023/3) were adopted. The rules of procedure as contained in document CCM/MSP/2010/3, mutatis mutandis, were also confirmed.

18. A list of documents submitted to the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties is contained in Annex I to this report. These documents are available through the United Nations Official Documents System (<http://documents.un.org>).

IV. Decisions and recommendations

19. The Meeting thanked the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for its efforts that led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/79 entitled “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”.
20. The meeting warmly welcomed the ratification of Nigeria and the accession of South Sudan to the Convention.
21. The Meeting underscored the obligation of States Parties never under any circumstances to use, develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer cluster munitions and, in accordance with the object and provisions of the Convention, condemned any use of cluster munitions by any actor. In this connection the Meeting expressed its grave concern at the significant increase in civilian casualties and the humanitarian impact resulting from the repeated and well documented use of cluster munitions since the Second review Conference. This grave concern applies in particular to the use of cluster munitions in Ukraine.
22. The Meeting took stock of the implementation of the Convention and progress made since the Tenth Meeting of States Parties and welcomed the Progress report on the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan, which covers the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.
23. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by Spain and Malawi as Coordinators on Universalisation and reiterated that universalisation is the joint responsibility of all States Parties under the leadership of the Presidency and in coordination with the thematic Coordinators.
24. The Meeting congratulated Bulgaria and Slovakia which had both complied with their Article 3 obligations and welcomed their Declarations of Completion.
25. The Meeting also welcomed South Africa’s announcement on the completion of its cluster munitions stockpile destruction process on 7 September 2023. Furthermore, the Meeting took note that South Africa awaits the official certification and verification confirmation from its Department of Defence.
26. The Meeting also thanked Bulgaria and the Netherlands, Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention, for their efforts in advancing implementation of this obligations.
27. The Meeting congratulated Bosnia and Herzegovina which had complied with its Article 4 obligations and welcomed its Declaration of Completion.
28. The meeting expressed appreciation for the work of Guyana and Norway, Coordinators on Clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and risk reduction education and welcomed their efforts in advancing implementation of this obligation.
29. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Iraq for an extension of its deadline for completing the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants in accordance with Article 4.1 of the Convention, agreeing to grant the request for an extension of 5 years until 1 November 2028.
30. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Iraq was one of the world’s most heavily cluster munition contaminated country and acknowledged the complexities that accompany this scale of contamination.
31. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the predictive nature of the work plans and the many variables that could affect the implementation of Iraq’s clearance, survey and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities.
32. In this regard, the Meeting recalls the obligation for Iraq to annually provide updated information through its Article 7 report, and notes that the Convention would benefit from Iraq reporting through its annual reports and at Meetings of States Parties or Review Conferences on the following:

(a) Progress made on the implementation of its clearance, survey, EORE and resource mobilization activities and how they measure up to both of the two work plan scenarios provided along with its extension request;

(b) Updated information on land released through survey and clearance;

(c) Updated information on the actual additional contamination identified through survey activities;

(d) Updated information on the implementation of its EORE plan;

(e) Updated information on its funding situation (namely, allocated government funding and secured international cooperation and assistance) and how the funding situation affects its survey, clearance and EORE capacities;

(f) Updated information related to its security situation and other circumstances that could impede the ability of Iraq to carry out its work plans;

(g) Annual updated work plans that incorporate all the new information gathered.

33. In addition to reporting as requested above, the Meeting noted the importance of Iraq keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of any other pertinent developments as necessary.

34. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Mauritania for an extension of its deadline for completing the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants in accordance with Article 4.1 of the Convention and agrees to grant the request for an extension of 2 years, until 1 August 2026.

35. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the provision of a more detailed and costed work plan for survey, clearance and risk education would make the plan easier to monitor, particularly considering the dependence of its implementation on international cooperation and assistance.

36. In this regard, the Meeting also noted that the Convention would benefit from Mauritania reporting annually through Article 7 reports and at Meetings of States Parties or Review Conferences on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the clearance, technical survey and risk education to be undertaken as indicated in its extension request;

(b) Updated information on remaining cluster munition contamination based on the findings of the technical survey;

(c) Updated information on resource mobilization efforts including international cooperation and assistance received, and resources made available by the Government of Mauritania to support implementation efforts;

(d) Other relevant information.

37. In addition to reporting as requested above, the Meeting noted the importance of Mauritania keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments as necessary.

38. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, France and Belgium, for their important work in this regard, as well as in fulfilling their role as focal points of the Convention to provide advice on Gender Mainstreaming and ensuring that matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities are considered in the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) in cooperation with the other thematic coordinators

39. Reiterating that assistance to victims, their families and communities is a key factor in the implementation of the Convention, the Meeting thanked Chile and Austria, Coordinators on victim assistance, for their ongoing work on an integrated approach to victim assistance.

40. Stressing the importance of international cooperation and assistance in providing support to the implementation of the Convention, the Meeting thanked Germany and Lebanon for their work as Coordinators on cooperation and assistance.

41. Stressing the importance of transparency measures, the Meeting thanked The Gambia for its work as Coordinator on Transparency Measures. Reiterating that initial and annual national reporting is a critical obligation under article 7 of the Convention in its role as a key instrument of measuring implementation. The Meeting noted that reporting rates have fallen in 2023. The Meeting thanked the Republic of The Gambia, and the President for their work to adapt the reporting templates, in compliance with Action 45 of the Lausanne Action Plan.

42. The Meeting also adopted the new reporting forms as contained in CCM/MSP/2023/7 for future use by States Parties.

43. Recalling the importance of compliance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Convention, the Meeting thanked New Zealand, in its capacity as Coordinator on National Implementation Measures for its work.

44. Ms. Pamela Moraga, Director of the ISU, presented the ISU workplan and budget for 2024 (CCM/MSP/2023/2), which was approved by the Meeting.

45. Ms. Moraga also presented a summary of the 2022 annual report of the ISU (CCM/MSP/2023/5). The Meeting welcomed that the annual workplans had been implemented as approved and commended the consistent prudent use of the ISU Trust Funds.

46. The Meeting also agreed that the 2025 ISU budget and work plan would be submitted sixty days prior to the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties and that the Director of the ISU would continue to submit reports on the work undertaken by the ISU annually.

47. The Meeting thanked the President for its leadership in fulfilment of his mandate regarding the recruitment of the new Director of the ISU.

48. On 14 September 2023, Ms. Silvia Mercogliano, Political Affairs Officer, UNODA, presented the financial status of the Convention.

49. Expressing deep concern about the financial situation due to the arrears in payment of the assessed contributions, the Meeting underlined the importance of ensuring full compliance with article 14 obligations and called upon all the States Parties and States not Parties participating in the meetings of the States Parties to address issues arising from outstanding dues.

50. The Meeting requested the Twelfth Meeting of States parties to keep financial issues under close review.

51. At its seventh plenary meeting, the Meeting welcomed new Coordinators to guide the intersessional work programme, as follows:

(a) Working group on the general status and operation of the Convention: Belgium until the end of the Twelfth meeting of States parties) working with Germany (until the end of the Thirteenth Meeting of States parties).

(b) Working group on Universalization: Malawi until the end of the Twelfth Meeting of States parties) working with Peru (until the end of the Thirteenth meeting of States parties).

(c) Working group on Victim Assistance: Austria until the end of the Twelfth Meeting of States parties) working with Panama (until the end of the Thirteenth meeting of States parties).

(d) Working group on Clearance and risk reduction: Norway (until the end of the Twelfth meeting of States parties) working with Italy (until the end of the Thirteenth meeting of States parties).

(e) Working group on Stockpile destruction and retention: the Netherlands (until the end of the Twelfth meeting of States parties) working with Zambia (until the end of the Thirteenth meeting of States parties).

(f) Working group on Cooperation and Assistance: Lebanon (until the end of the Twelfth meeting of States parties) working with Switzerland (until the end of the Thirteenth meeting of States parties).

52. At the same plenary meeting, the Meeting welcomed the Coordinators to lead the following thematic areas:

- Transparency Measures: Australia
- National Implementation Measures: Iraq

53. The Meeting reaffirmed its attachment to the principle of multilingualism.

54. The Meeting confirmed the designation of H.E. Mrs. Francisca Elizabeth Méndez Escobar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office in Geneva, as the President of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to be held in 2024. In accordance with the decision taken at the First Review Conference, her term will commence on the day following the conclusion of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties until the last day of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties.

55. The Meeting also decided that the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties would take place from 10 to 13 September 2024 in Geneva, unless its President decides at a later stage to host the meeting in another venue, in accordance with paragraph 92 of the Final Report of the CCM Second Review Conference (CCM/CONF/2021/6).

56. Being the estimated costs of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties already approved by the Tenth Meeting of States Parties (CCM/MSP/2022/10/Rev.1), the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties approved the estimated costs of the Thirteenth meeting of States Parties as contained on document CCM/MSP/2023/9.

57. In accordance with the decision of the Second Review Conference, the Meeting decided not to hold intersessional meetings during the ensuing annual cycle.

58. At its seventh plenary meeting, on 14 September 2023, the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties adopted its final report, as contained in CCM/MSP/2023/CRP.1, to be issued as document CCM/MSP/2023/11.

Annex I
List of documents submitted to the Eleventh Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCM/MSP/2023/1	Provisional Agenda
CCM/MSP/2023/2	Implementation Support Unit 2024 Work Plan and Budget. Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
CCM/MSP/2023/3	Provisional Annotated Programme of Work
CCM/MSP/2023/4	Analysis of Iraq's Deadline Extension Request Under Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
CCM/MSP/2023/5	Convention on Cluster Munitions Implementation Support Unit – 2022 Annual Report
CCM/MSP/2023/6	Analysis of Mauritania's Deadline Extension Request under Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions submitted by the Analysis Group for Article 4 Extension Requests – Germany, Guyana, Lebanon and Norway
CCM/MSP/2023/7	Reporting Formats for Article 7 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
CCM/MSP/2023/8	Convention on Cluster Munitions 11MSP Progress Report: Monitoring Progress in Implementing the Lausanne Action Plan submitted by the President of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties
CCM/MSP/2023/9	Estimated Costs of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Note by the Secretariat
CCM/MSP/2023/10	Documento Nacional de Cuba - Punto 10 del temario: revisión de la situación y el funcionamiento de la convención y otros asuntos importantes para la consecución de los objetivos de la convención. A) universalización de la convención
CCM/MSP/2023/11	Final report
CCM/MSP/2023/INF.1	Information For States Parties, Observer States, Intergovernmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations
CCM/MSP/2023/INF.2	List of Participants
CCM/MSP/2023/CRP.1	Draft report
CCM/MSP/2023/MISC.1	Explanation of Position on the "State of Palestine"

Advance