

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 United Nations Secretary-General is the Depositary of the Convention. To date, 101 States are parties to the Convention.



The Scope of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

- A cluster munition is a weapon consisting of a container or dispenser from which many submunitions or bomblets are scattered over wide areas. Many submunitions 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.

“The Convention is the result of an effective coalition among States, international organizations and civil society. It is a clear example of what we can achieve when we work together towards a common goal.”

Secretary-General’s message to the First Review Conference of States parties to the Convention, 7 September 2015

to the Convention or take place in Geneva. At these meetings States parties consider the status and operation of the Convention, take stock of progress and review challenges in its implementation. 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. An Implementation Support Unit (ISU) housed in the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in Geneva (Switzerland) assists the States parties in the implementation of the Convention.

The Role of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

In close partnership with the ISU, the States parties and civil society, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) provides support to the Convention at the international level.

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 and the Review Conferences, 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 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 demarches to promote the Convention among the States not yet party.

CCM Implementation Facts (Cluster Munitions Monitor 2016)

- A total of 34 States have developed or produced more than 200 types of cluster munitions. Half of these states ceased manufacturing cluster munitions prior to or as a result of joining the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
- Seventeen former producer States of cluster munitions have so far joined the CCM.
- Twenty-nine States Parties have completely destroyed their stockpiles of cluster munitions, collectively destroying nearly 1.4 million cluster munitions containing 172.9 million submunitions. This represents the destruction of 93% of the total stockpiles of cluster munitions and 97% of the total number of submunitions declared by States Parties.
- A total of 24 States and 3 other areas were believed to be contaminated by cluster munition remnants as of August 2016.