



Quarterly Newsletter

1 January - 31 March 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

Nigeria is State Party no. 111

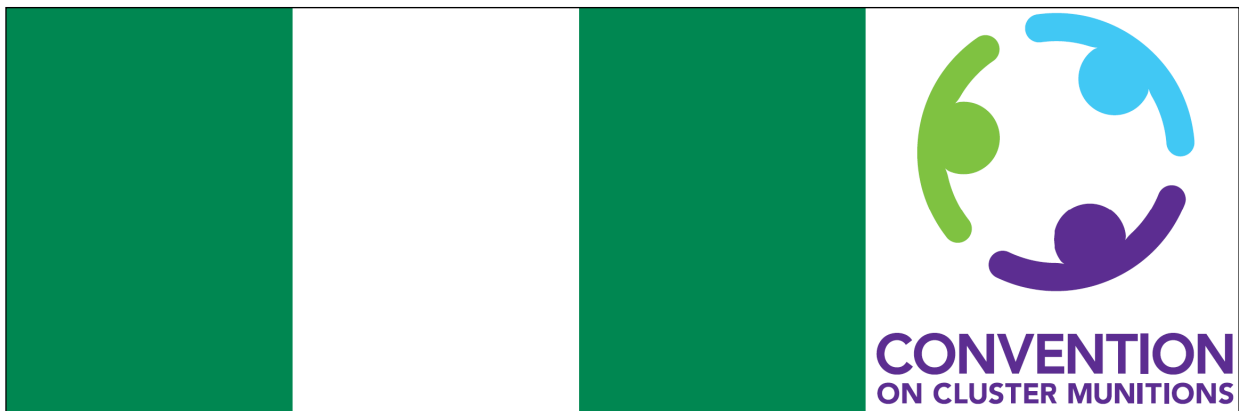
CCM Regional Universalization
Workshops

2022 annual report early bird
medallists



11TH MEETING
OF STATES PARTIES
11 - 14 SEPTEMBER
GENEVA 2023

Nigeria is CCM's newest State Party



On 28 February 2023 Nigeria deposited its instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and became State Party No. 111 to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). In accordance with CCM Article 17(2), the Convention will enter into force for Nigeria on 1 August 2023 and its initial transparency report will be due on 28 January 2024. Nigeria signed the Convention on 12 June 2009, shortly after the CCM opened for signature on 3 December 2008.

H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iraq, the President of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

(11MSP) expressed his appreciation for Nigeria co-hosting the CCM universalization workshop in March 2022 and warmly congratulated Nigeria on its ratification of the Convention. He encouraged other States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the CCM to consider joining to the Convention as a matter of priority.

Nigeria's ratification increased CCM membership in Africa to 35 - where 43 of the 54 countries have committed to the treaty, demonstrating the continent's strong dedication towards a region free of cluster munitions. The ratification is another important step towards the goal of a fully universalized Convention.

CCM Francophone Africa Universalization Workshop



The CCM Francophone Africa Universalization Workshop was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 15 to 16 February 2023. The workshop was organized as a follow-up to the Abuja Africa Regional CCM Universalization Workshop held in March 2022.

The event was organized by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), hosted by the government of Cameroon and co-financed by the governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Iraq, in its role as the Presidency of the 11th Meeting of States Parties to be held in September 2023, also participated in the workshop.

Representatives from two francophone Africa signatory States, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Djibouti, and one State not Party, Equatorial Guinea, with the support of one African State Party, Cameroon, gathered to discuss CCM universalization and implementation in the region.

The workshop presented an opportunity to promote the Convention in the French-speaking region of Africa and provided a platform for the States to further their understanding of the CCM. It also allowed for discussions on the challenges and possible solutions to joining and implementing the CCM. The expectation was that this would help the Signatories and States not Parties undertake the necessary efforts towards ratification or accession. These efforts were enhanced by a military-to-military dialogue session that was strictly only open to military personnel and was held on the second day of the workshop.

Workshop resource persons included representatives of Cameroon, France, Iraq, Switzerland, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), and the ISU.

The workshop concluded with the participants agreeing on appropriate next steps to advance their national processes on the CCM.

Commonwealth CCM Universalization Workshop



The Commonwealth Workshop on CCM Universalization was held at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London, England, on 2 March 2023. The workshop was organized by the ISU and sponsored by the UK Government in its role as the 10MSP President of the Convention.

Representatives from four signatory States, Cyprus, Jamaica, Tanzania and Uganda; and two States not Parties, Gabon and Malaysia; and two States Parties, United Kingdom and Nigeria, met to discuss the Universalization of the CCM in the Commonwealth. Spain in its capacity as the Convention's Universalization Co-Coordinator

also attended the workshop. Other workshop resource persons were representatives of the United Kingdom, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), and the ISU. The Workshop provided an opportunity for CCM Signatories and States not Parties in the Commonwealth to discuss challenges and possible solutions to joining the Convention. Additionally, it was an opportunity to extend universalization and national implementation efforts throughout the Commonwealth by taking concrete steps to achieve the goals set out in the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP).

Working lunch with Iraq



Iraq and the ISU team

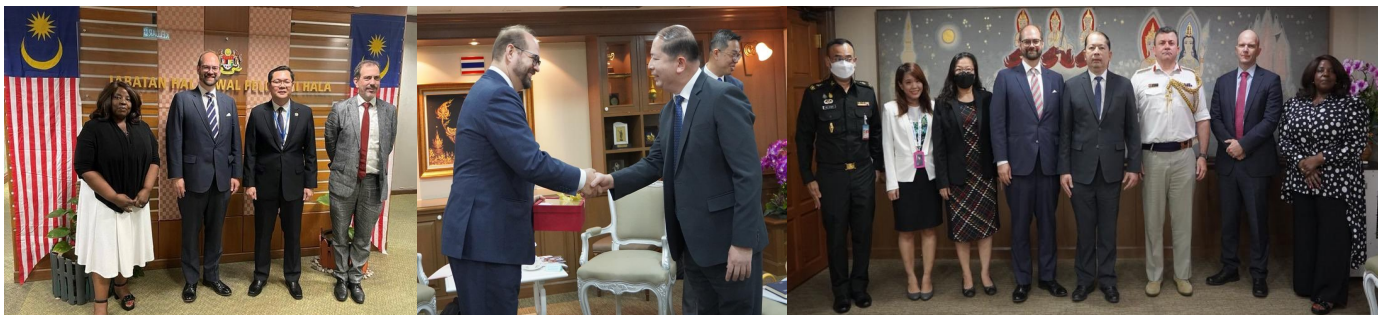
On 7 March 2023, the Implementation Support Unit hosted a working lunch for members of the Iraqi Government to discuss preparations for the “*Peace Building and Development Through the Convention on Cluster Munitions*” Arab Regional Workshop to be held in Baghdad, Iraq, on 19 March 2023.

The meeting also discussed the Article 4 deadline extension request of Iraq that was submitted on 16 November 2022 and the preparation of the requested updated information to be sent by

Iraq following the feedback of the Article 4 Extension Request Analysis Group.

The working lunch was attended by Mr. Bakr Sahib, Acting Director of the Iraq Directorate of Mine Action (DMA), Mr. Oday Abdel Sattar Aoun from the Office of the Minister of Environment, Mr. Raed Hlaichi, Director of International Cooperation Section, and Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari, Second Secretary at the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

South-East Asia CCM Universalization bilaterals



South-East Asia CCM Universalization bilateral meetings

H.E. Mr. Aidan Liddle, the UK Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, accompanied by Ms. Sheila Mweemba, the ISU Director, undertook bilateral visits from 13 to 17 March 2023 to 3 South-East Asian countries—Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand—to promote the CCM.

In Kuala Lumpur, the team met with H.E. Mr. Tan Li Lung, Undersecretary of the Multilateral Security Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Principal Assistant Secretary, Mohd. Ishrin Mohd. Ishak.

In Jakarta, Amb. Liddle met with officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI) to discuss the status of Indonesia’s ratification of the CCM.

In Bangkok, Amb. Liddle and the ISU Director met with a cross-agency team led by the Deputy Secretary General of the National Security Council (NSC) of Thailand, Mr. Chatchai Bangchud, and other officials of the Thai Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence to discuss and better understand Thailand’s perspectives on the CCM and its possible accession to it.

The visits were part of the United Kingdom’s commitment and efforts to support the Convention’s universalization across different regions which were initiated during its presidency of the 10MSP of the Convention. Amb. Liddle and Ms. Mweemba also took the opportunity during these meetings to provide information on the key provisions of the CCM and clarification on any matters that were unclear to their interlocutors.

2022 annual report early bird medalists



For the sixth consecutive year, the first three States Parties to submit their annual transparency reports were awarded virtual medals in recognition of their diligence in complying with their Article 7 obligation. For the first time, Australia was awarded the gold medal. The most frequent medalist, Saint Kitts & Nevis, received the silver medal while Guinea-Bissau got the bronze. Congratulations to all of them!

The submission of an annual report is a legal obligation as well as an important transparency and confidence building measure among States Parties to the Convention.

All CCM States Parties are required under Article 7 of the Convention to submit their annual transparency report to the Secretary-General at ccm@un.org before 30 April of each year.

CCM Arab Regional Workshop



CCM Arab Regional Workshop in Baghdad, Iraq

The “Peace Building and Development through the Convention on Cluster Munitions” Arab Regional Workshop was held in Baghdad, Iraq, on 19 March 2023. The workshop was hosted by Iraq with the financial support of the Governments of the United Kingdom and Norway (through Norwegian People’s Aid), and with the organizational support of the ISU.

The workshop brought together 4 States not Parties—Jordan, Libya, Syria and United Arab Emirates—and 3 States Parties—Iraq, Mauritania and Tunisia—from the region. The objective of the workshop was to facilitate the exchange of views on how to enhance peacebuilding and development in the region through

joining and implementing the Convention.

11MSP President, H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, and 12 MSP President-Designate, Ms. Francisca Méndez Escobar, both spoke during the opening session of the workshop. The UK 10MSP Presidency and CCM Universalization Co-Coordinator, Spain, were also in attendance. Participating organizations included the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA), the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), the Danish Demining Group (DDG) and the ISU.