

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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CCM Francophone Africa Workshop 2023

Background Paper

Motivated by principles of humanity and concerned at the extent of civilian suffering caused by these weapons, the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) put in place a comprehensive prohibition on cluster munitions. The CCM is a legally binding international treaty that comprehensively prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions, requires destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions within eight years, and clearance of contaminated land within ten years. Cluster bombs have killed and injured thousands of civilians over the last 70 years and continue to do so today. In all of the conflicts where these weapons were used, they have left a predictable pattern of human suffering. It is this unacceptable harm that the Convention on Cluster Munitions was created to prevent and mitigate.

A solid commitment to international cooperation and assistance to enable States Parties to implement their obligations was central in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the CCM in 2008. The Convention, therefore, strongly relies on transparency, efficient cooperation, and constructive assistance among and between all CCM stakeholders. They can also benefit from existing good practices, tools and resources aimed at increasing partnerships, facilitating cooperation, and ensuring the full implementation of obligations. If States Parties are unable to clear contaminated areas or to destroy stockpiled cluster munitions, they can submit extension requests prolonging the original deadlines.

The Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) adopted by States Parties at the Second Review Conference (2RC) held in 2021 underlined the urgent need for further efforts to promote the norms established by the Convention. As of 10 November 2022, 123 States have committed to the goals of the CCM – 110 as States Parties and 13 as Signatories. Forty-three (43) of the 54 African countries have committed to the treaty, demonstrating the African continent's strong commitment towards a region free of cluster munitions. In Francophone Africa, 16 are States Parties, 3 are Signatories and 2 States not Party to the CCM.

African States have the opportunity to be one of the first regions to be declared free of cluster munitions. Leadership from Africa to ban cluster munitions will once again send a strong message against any use of these weapons, thus saving lives and livelihoods around the world. Joining the Convention is achievable, and support is available to enable States to meet their obligations - whether it is the implementation of national measures, annual transparency reporting, victim assistance, stockpile destruction or clearance of cluster munition remnants.

Notwithstanding the progress achieved in the pursuit of the universal acceptance of the Convention, much remains to be done to meet the LAP's goal. An increase in adherence to the Convention especially in the African region would be critical to intensify efforts to promote the observance of the Convention's norms and achieve its universalization.

Purpose

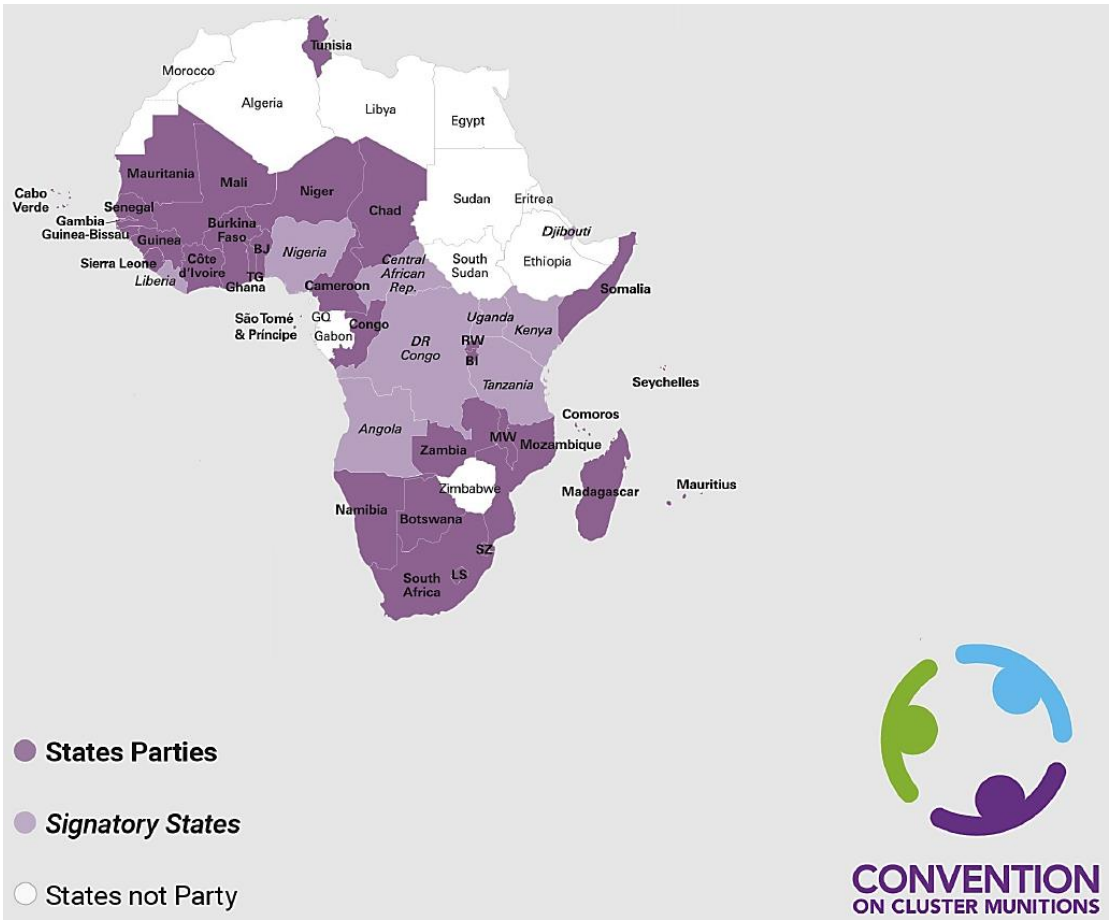
The workshop builds on past actions such as the declarations from the Accra (2012) and Lomé (2013) meetings, the 2016 Addis Ababa Commitment on universalization and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the CCM Ratification Seminar held in Kampala (2017) and the CCM African Regional Universalization Workshop held in Abuja (2022).

The workshop aims to give Francophone African Signatory States and States not Party, the opportunity to discuss the obstacles and challenges faced in the ratification or accession process and to explore concrete solutions to ensure their swift adherence. States representatives attending the workshop will be required to provide a current overview of the status of their processes on ratification/accession to the Convention.

The Eleventh Meeting of States Parties (11MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11 to 14 September 2023. At this meeting, States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions will report on progress made in implementing their treaty obligations and on the Lausanne Action Plan. Signatories and States not Party will also be encouraged to provide updates on their progress and plans for ratification of or accession to the Convention.

The workshop is organized by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions with the financial support of the Governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom and co-hosted by the Governments of Cameroon and Iraq.

African Membership to the CCM



STATUS OF FRANCOPHONE AFRICA TO THE CCM (December 2022)

States Parties	Signatory States	States not Party
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Benin2. Burkina Faso3. Burundi4. Cameroon5. Chad6. Comoros7. Congo8. Côte d'Ivoire9. Guinea10. Madagascar11. Mali12. Niger13. Rwanda14. Senegal15. Seychelles16. Togo	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Central African Republic (CAR)2. Djibouti3. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Equatorial Guinea2. Gabon