



CARICOM Regional Workshop on the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Concept Note

Background

Cluster munitions have killed and injured thousands of civilians during the last 70 years and continue to do so today. The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is a legally binding international treaty that seeks to eliminate the harm caused to civilians by cluster munitions through a comprehensive prohibition of their use, production, stockpiling and transfer. The Convention requires States Parties to destroy stockpiled cluster munitions within 8 years, to clear all contaminated land under their jurisdiction or control within 10 years, to submit transparency reports and enact as a matter of priority national legislation to implement the Convention.

A solid commitment to international cooperation and assistance to enable States Parties to implement their obligations was also 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. States adhering to the Convention can request assistance based on their specific needs and challenges through, for instance, the “Country Coalitions” approach developed by Germany in its capacity as President of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties (7MSP) and benefit from existing good practices, tools and resources aimed at increasing partnerships, facilitating cooperation and ensuring the full implementation of obligations.

The Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) adopted by States Parties at the First Review Conference in September 2015 aspires to have 130 States Parties by the Second Review Conference (2RC) in November 2020, which is less than 10 months away. As of January 2020, 121 States have committed to the goals of the CCM – 107 as States Parties and 14 as Signatories.

August 2020 marks 10 years since the CCM entered into force and during this period a significant number of States from every region of the world have become Parties to the Convention. Notwithstanding the progress achieved in the pursuit of the universal acceptance of the Convention, much remains to be done to meet the DAP’s goal. An increase in adherence to the Convention especially in CARICOM would be critical in reaching its 130 States Parties target by the 2RC in November 2020.

Purpose

The workshop aims to give the 2 Signatory States and 6 States not Party in the region the opportunity to discuss the challenges faced in the ratification or accession process and to exchange concrete ideas on ways to address these and thus accelerate adherence. In this regard, Signatories and States not Party will be invited to provide updates on their progress and plans for ratification of or accession to the Convention. Resources and expert advice on the Convention's key operational obligations and on national ratification/accession and domestication will be made available to participants during the meeting.

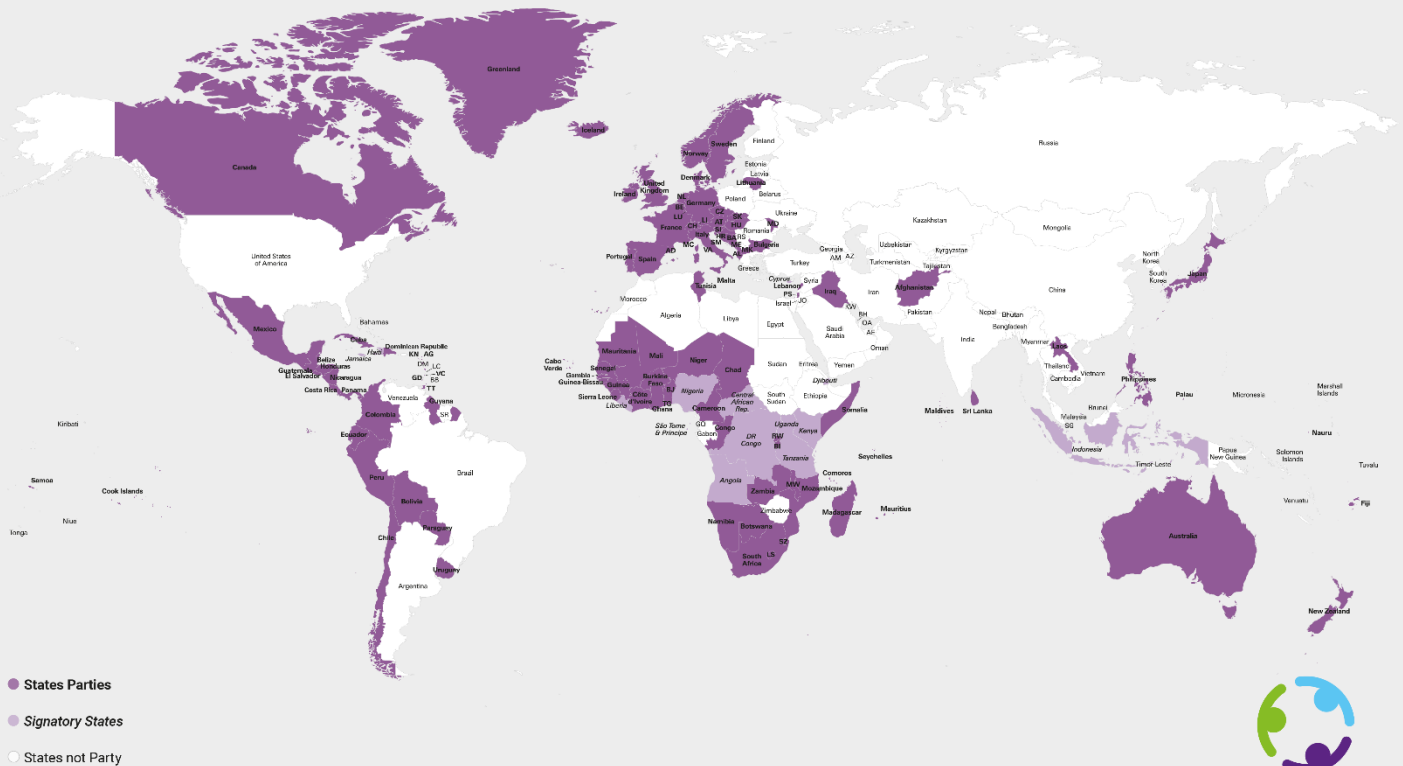
This interactive workshop builds on past efforts such as the *Santiago Regional Workshop on Cluster Munitions, towards the establishment of a cluster munition free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean* in Santiago, Chile, in December 2013 as well as several other regional initiatives.

It is hoped that by the Second Review Conference to be held in Switzerland in November 2020, a good number of CARICOM States that attended the Grenada workshop will have become States Parties to the Convention. The workshop is organized by the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (ISU-CCM) in collaboration with the Caribbean Coalition for Development and the Reduction of Armed Violence (CDRAV).

The workshop is hosted by the Government of Grenada and funded by the generous contributions of the government of Canada and Switzerland.

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

UNIVERSALIZATION STATUS – JANUARY 2020



*United Nations Regional Groups

This map is for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the ISU concerning the legal status of any country or territory, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

