

# Frequently Asked Questions



## **Why should my country join the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)?**

To exhibit global solidarity with affected states, abide by humanitarian principles, and promote and strengthen the norm against the use of cluster munitions. To date, 124 states have committed to the goals of the Convention.

## **What do states unaffected by cluster munitions get out of joining the CCM?**

For states with no cluster munition survivors, stockpiles or contamination, joining the Convention sends a strong message of condemnation of the use of cluster munitions, as these weapons cause unacceptable harm to civilians. As part of the CCM community, states demonstrate their adherence to international humanitarian law (IHL), strengthen partnerships for disarmament, as well as prevent future suffering by putting an end to cluster munitions.

## **Why should my country join when others in the region have not?**

For the reasons given in the answers to the previous two questions. Furthermore, joining the CCM demonstrates that your country is a leader in the region in promoting and maintaining international peace and security.

## **What if it is unlikely that my country will meet its obligations within the stipulated deadline?**

Each State Party is required to destroy its cluster munition stockpiles under its jurisdiction or control within 8 years of becoming a party to the Convention (Article 3) and clear its territory of unexploded submunitions within 10 years (Article 4). While all cluster munition-affected States Parties must do their best to respect their Article 3 and 4 deadlines, the Treaty allows States Parties that are unable to do so to request deadline extensions.

## **What will it cost my government to join the CCM?**

The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the CCM was established in May 2015 to support and coordinate the work of the Convention. At the First Review Conference, States Parties adopted a funding model for the ISU whereby States Parties commit to contributing towards its annual budget. States Parties' annual contributions are calculated in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment and prorated across the number of CCM States Parties. For example, a State Party with a UN scale of 0.005 will pay approximately CHF 60 annually.

## **What must my country do to join the Convention?**

By submitting an instrument of ratification or accession to the UN Secretary-General, who is the Convention's depositary.

## **What assistance is available to States Parties to implement its CCM obligations?**

Article 6 of the Convention stipulates that, in fulfilling its obligations under the CCM, each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance. Similarly, each State Party in a position to do so shall provide technical, material and financial assistance to affected States Parties to facilitate the implementation of their obligations.

A limited Sponsorship Programme, which facilitates attendance at annual Meeting of States Parties and other formal meetings of the Convention, is available for affected and low-income states.

The Convention also has a Country Coalition initiative which offers an effective framework for ensuring national ownership and long-term commitment by donors and operators and is adapted to the particular needs of the state needing assistance.

A wide range of internet resources can be found on the Convention's website at:

[www.clusterconvention.org](http://www.clusterconvention.org). Resources available include:

- A ratification/accession toolkit;
- A model national legislation for small states that do not possess cluster munitions and are not contaminated by them;
- A model legislation for common-law states;
- A checklist to assess if existing national legislation and administrative measures are sufficient to fully implement the CCM;
- Reporting templates.

## **What can I do to raise awareness about the CCM when it's not a priority for my government?**

**Successful strategies** outlined by States that have joined the Convention include:

- Designate a focal point for all CCM-related issues in capital;
- Focus on decision making levels: politicians, parliamentarians and technicians in stakeholder ministries;
- Set up a multi-disciplinary CCM task force or committee to improve coordination amongst national stakeholders;
- Organize broader consultations domestically with members of civil society, academia, scientists and local communities;
- Incorporate the CCM into the agenda of different meetings;
- Use national IHL Committees - if any - to promote the CCM;
- Engage with existing regional platforms to engage in dialogue on the CCM;
- Participate in regional events on the CCM;
- Contact the ISU CCM, the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) and/or the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for technical assistance, in depth briefs on the Convention, visits to capital, organization of workshops, and sharing of best practices and tools.

**For more information**

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