



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



 UK Government

PEACE BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Arab Regional Workshop, Baghdad, Iraq – 19 March 2023

Background Paper

Introduction

Motivated by principles of humanity and concerned at the extent of civilian and obstruct economic and social development, 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 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 their transparency reports or the “Country Coalitions” mechanism. 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 17 February 2023, 123 States have committed to the goals of the CCM – 111 as States Parties and 12 as Signatories. Seven (7) of the twenty-two (22) Arab regional countries have committed to the treaty with only one Signatory State still must ratify it. There remains 14 Arab Group States still to accede to the Convention.

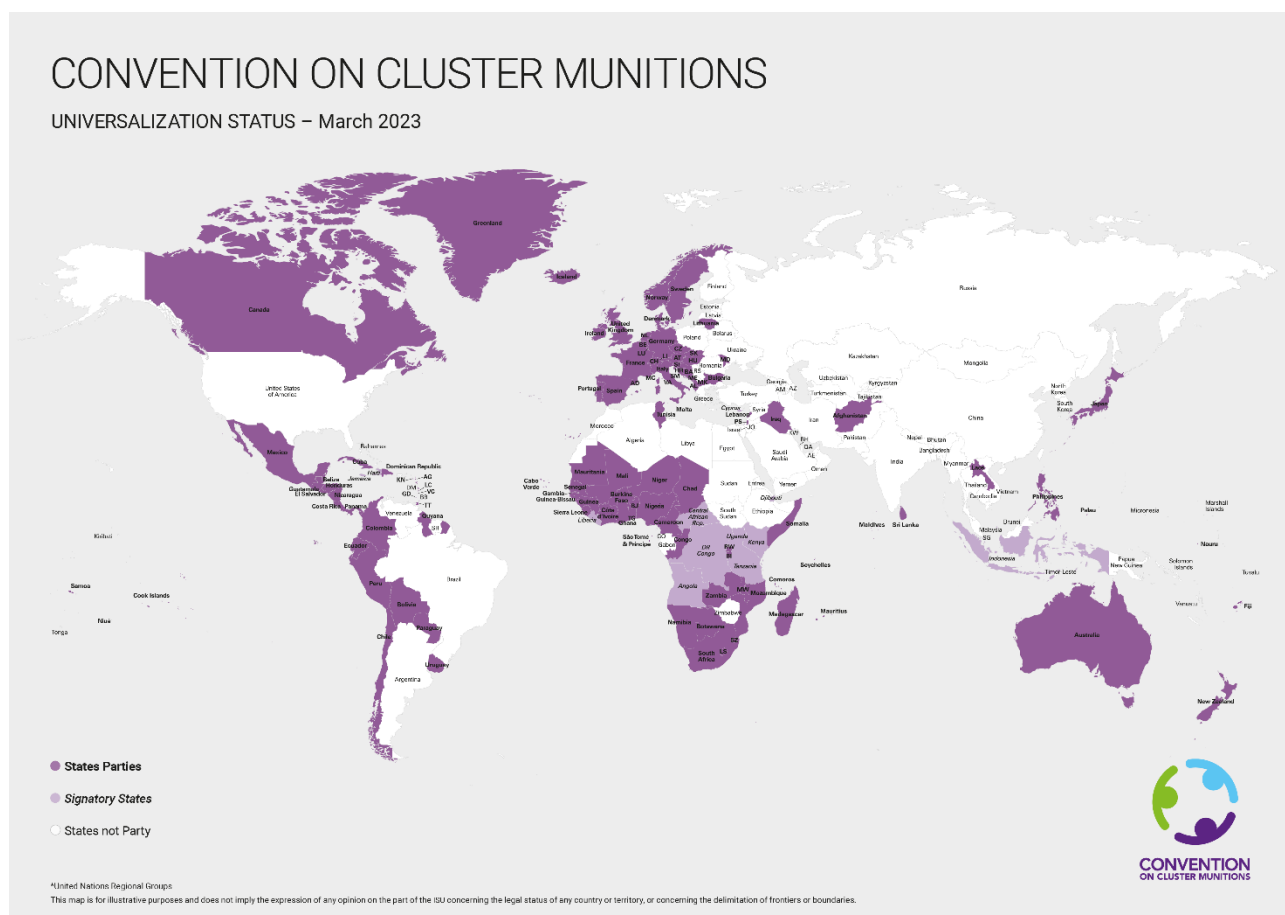
Purpose

The workshop builds on past actions such as the *Arab Regional Roundtable Discussion on “Peace Building and Development Through Disarmament Conventions”* that took place in New York in October 2022.

It aims to give the Arab States Parties and States not Party, the opportunity to exchange views and national implementation efforts further across them, and identifying steps that enhance peace building and development through the CCM in region. Furthermore, to elaborate on the obstacles and challenges faced in the ratification or accession process 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. Resources and expert advice on the Convention’s key operational obligations and on national ratification and domestication processes will be made available to participants during the meeting.

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 United Kingdom Government and Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA). The workshop is hosted by the Government of Iraq.



STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE CCM IN ARAB REGION (6 March 2023)

States Parties	Signatory States	States not Parties	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comoros 2. Iraq 3. Lebanon 4. Mauritania 5. Palestine 6. Somalia 7. Tunisia 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Djibouti 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Algeria 2. Bahrain 3. Egypt 4. Jordan 5. Kuwait 6. Libya 7. Morocco 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Oman 9. Qatar 10. Saudi Arabia 11. Sudan 12. Syria 13. United Arab Emirates 14. Yemen