

CMC Statement on Transparency
Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meetings
Geneva, 16 April 2013



Thank you Madame Chair.

April is reporting season, but we are concerned that States Parties are not acting with the enthusiasm and rigor they have been showing for other convention requirements. Nearly one quarter of all states whose deadline has passed are late with their initial reports. Some countries, like Fiji, Niger, and the Seychelles are already two years late, though we understand the Seychelles' report is being prepared. This trend must be reversed. And so far, only twelve states have submitted their annual update, with only two weeks left to go until the deadline.

So we would like to give a few reasons why it is important to report, and to report in a timely and thorough manner, under the CCM. We greatly appreciate the work Belgium put into creating a guide to reporting and presenting good reporting practices yesterday. We call on all states to make the best use of such helpful advice. Here are our reasons.

1. **To make clear what convention obligations apply.** Before the CCM was developed, there was limited official information available about which states had stockpiles, contamination, or cluster munition victims. Those holes in the big picture are now being filled, but we are still missing information from states that haven't yet turned in their initial report. Seventeen States Parties are late in submitting their initial report, several of them from my Asia-Pacific region.
2. **To showcase your accomplishments and plans, which is important for your country and the convention as a whole.** The treaty requires information on "the status and progress" on treaty obligations, meaning what has been accomplished, what is left to do, and what the plans are for the future. The more comprehensive the information is, the more we will get a full picture of individual and collective progress in implementing the convention. Such positive developments demonstrate the strength, effectiveness, and impact of the convention, which helps to bolster the norm, and builds confidence among States Parties and the broader international community that states are fully respecting their obligations. This, in turn, can help with universalization.
3. **To make a case for international cooperation and assistance if needed.** This point is closely linked to the previous one. If a state does a good job in filling out its Article 7 report, including on what has been achieved with past support, the remaining work to be done, challenges faced, and a clear plan for the future, it will make a compelling case for why it should receive international cooperation and assistance. There is also a place to describe challenges and cooperation and assistance needs in the reporting forms themselves.
4. **To explain any other actions taken to implement the convention,** such as reaching out to non-States Parties in accordance with Article 21. We hope to hear about such work at all convention meetings, but this is a chance to put on the record your activities on promotion of

universalization or speaking out against use.

5. **To fulfill the convention.** As you well know, Article 7 and 3.8 of the convention *requires* States Parties to provide a report within six months of joining the convention, and then provide an annual update by 30 April every year. It doesn't say the state "may" or "should" report – it says it must!

6. **It should be simple to do.** The reporting forms are asking for information you should have readily available, particularly after the initial report. And since reporting is only required for relevant treaty obligations, those states with no actions to take need only check a box to show no change from the previous year.

Yet despite all the benefits that come from reporting – both for the reporting state and other concerned actors – we are seeing disappointing results, both with initial reports and the number of annual updates.

On the other hand, we would like to thank states like Palau, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Canada, which have turned in voluntary reports before becoming States Parties. We encourage other signatories and other states not parties to do likewise so we can get a fuller understanding of the proliferation and impact of cluster munitions in the world.

In closing Mr. President, we hope to see many more reports submitted during the coming weeks. And we especially call on those states that are late in turning in their initial report to do so right away! And we urge the nine new States Parties to start off on the right foot by submitting their report ahead of their upcoming deadlines. We are looking forward to hearing from you all!

Thank you.