



Memo for Governments

## Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meeting

Geneva, Switzerland, 22-23 June 2015

### What is the Intersessional Meeting about?

The Intersessional Meeting is the last meeting before the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This year the Intersessional Meeting will focus on preparations of the outcome documents of the First Review Conference. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for States and other stakeholders to discuss progress made to universalize and implement the convention and plans and challenges to achieve the convention's goals and to ensure implementation of the Vientiane Action Plan (VAP).

The meeting is open to States Parties, States not party, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

The Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions takes place from 22 to 23 June, 09:00-12:00, 14:00-17:00 at the World Meteorological Organization's building in Geneva, Switzerland.

### What are states expected to do at the Intersessional Meeting?

States Parties are expected to comment on the draft Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP), to be adopted at the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in September 2015. The DAP has been drafted by the thematic coordinators of the convention, States Parties will have an opportunity to share input and to ensure the DAP translates the obligations of the convention into action for the next five years.

All states are expected to strongly and publicly condemn any use of cluster munitions. In 2014 and 2015, cluster munitions have been used in the following countries:

- **Yemen** - A coalition led by Saudi Arabia used cluster munitions in air strikes against Houthi forces in Yemen. The coalition comprises Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates. Additional evidence points to further use of the weapon that cannot be attributed to a specific conflicting party.
- **Sudan** - Cluster munitions were used by the Sudanese air force in the Nuba Mountains (South Kordofan) during indiscriminate bombings on civilian areas in February and March 2015. Additional information points to use in May 2015 as well.
- **Libya** - Cluster munitions were used in at least two instances between December 2014 and March 2015, in Sirte and Bin Jawad, with additional unconfirmed reports of use on the Watiya front.
- **Ukraine** - Cluster munitions were used by both sides to the conflict in January and February 2015 and by Ukraine government forces in October 2014.
- **Syria** - There has been documented and widespread use of cluster munition in Syria, by the Syrian government. According to Human Rights Watch, Syrian forces used at least 249 cluster munitions in 10 of Syria's 14 governorates between July 2012 and July 2014. Use is ongoing.

States not party to the convention are expected to ratify/accede or report on steps taken towards adhesion.

### How can governments register, prepare for and participate in the Intersessional Meeting?

Information related to invitations, registration as well as the agenda are available on the Convention on Cluster Munitions' website: <http://www.clusterconvention.org/meetings/intersessional-meetings/june-2015/>. The Implementation Support Unit is reachable at [info@clusterconvention.org](mailto:info@clusterconvention.org).

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In addition the **Second Preparatory Meeting of the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions** will be held on 24 June 2015, 10:00-13:00, Room XIX, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.