



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2017 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

## Highlights

(1 July – 30 September)

### Benin is State Party No.102!

On 10 July 2017 the Republic of Benin deposited its instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, making it the **102nd State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)**. This marks a notable step towards achieving the goal of 130 States Parties by the Second Review Conference in 2020 as set out in the Dubrovnik Action Plan. The President of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties, H.E. Ambassador Michael Biontino of the Federal Republic of Germany, warmly congratulated Benin and called on all States that have not yet joined the treaty to do so as soon as possible.



### 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CCM's Entry into Force

1 August 2017 marked the seventh anniversary of the CCM's entry into force. The Convention, adopted in Dublin on 30 May 2008 and opened for signature on 3 December of that year, entered into force on 1 August 2010 after the thirtieth ratification was deposited in February 2010. Although **significant progress** has been made in the implementation of the CCM, **much remains to be done** to fully implement all individual and collective outstanding obligations **by 2030 as per the political declaration** adopted by States Parties at the Sixth Meeting of States Parties in September 2016. For instance:

- With 102 States Parties, **28 States** still need to **ratify or accede** to the CCM within the next 3 years in order for the target outlined by the Dubrovnik Action Plan to be achieved;
- According to Article 7 reports, 10 States Parties still have **pending stockpile destruction obligations**;
- With the first of the CCM Article 4 clearance deadlines only a few years away (2020), it is essential to ensure progress towards implementation of article 4 through the application of best **land release practices**, the creation of dedicated **national survey and clearance plans** and the set-up of **high-quality information management** in affected States Parties;
- The provision of **comprehensive victim assistance** needs to remain a top priority for States Parties;
- 52 out of 102 States Parties – representing 51% – are yet to report on **specific** or **sufficient existing domestic law** to implement the CCM.

### Launch of Cluster Munition Monitor 2017

The Cluster Munition Coalition released the current Cluster Munition Monitor on 31 August 2017. The report is focused on the calendar year of 2016, with some information updated through July 2017 where possible. The **Report can be downloaded** via [www.the-monitor.org](http://www.the-monitor.org) According to the Monitor:

- States Parties have reported 97% destruction of total cluster munitions
- There was 25% increase in land cleared globally in 2016 compared with 2015
- There were more than twice as many cluster munition casualties in 2016 than in 2015



## Seventh Meeting of States Parties

The Seventh Meeting of States Parties (7MSP) to the CCM was held in Geneva on 4-6 September 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Circa 400 participants from States, international and non-governmental organizations took part in the three-day Meeting to take stock of the implementation of the CCM's steering action plan.



With regards to **universalization** of the Convention, Signatory States **the Philippines, Haiti, Liberia and the Gambia** announced their intention to ratify by the end of the year. State not Party **Sri Lanka** announced that agreement has been reached in principle for it to accede to the Convention. Moreover, the representative of **South Sudan** announced to Meeting that its government has “unanimously decided to fully accede” to the CCM in the very near future.

At the 7MSP, States Parties also reiterated the **importance of reporting and transparency commitments** in fulfilling the Convention's obligations as stipulated in Article 7. Initial transparency reports are crucial in determining the baseline upon which progress will be measured with regards to obligations such as stockpile destruction, clearance and risk reduction education, victim assistance and national implementation measures. They also serve as tools to boost assistance and cooperation. To date, there are still **19 States Parties** that have overdue initial transparency reports.

**Documents and statements** delivered during the 7MSP are available on the CCM website: [www.clusterconvention.org](http://www.clusterconvention.org)

## Nicaragua elected President of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties (8MSP)



On day 3 of the 7MSP, H.E. **Ambassador Hernán Estrada Román**, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Geneva, was elected President of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties (8MSP) by States Parties. The President of the 7MSP, H.E. Ambassador Michael Biontino of the Federal Republic of Germany congratulated and handed over the Presidency of the CCM to H.E. Ambassador Estrada.

Ambassador Estrada will be assisted by his colleagues – **Mr. Luis-Alberto Vargas Rojas**, Deputy Permanent Representative and **Ms. Nohelia Vargas Idiáquez**, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Geneva – in carrying out his duties as the President of the 8MSP.



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