

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2021 1st Quarter

Highlights

(1st January - 31st March)

CCM Second Review Conference Part Two





Protecting Lives Empowering Victims Enabling Development

Part 1 of the Second Review Conference of States Parties to the CCM (2RC) was held virtually from 25 to 27 November 2020. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, Part 2 of the 2RC that was planned to be held in hybrid format from 4 to 5 February 2021 could not take place. Therefore, States Parties agreed to postpone the meeting until the health situation allowed for it. Currently, this meeting is tentatively slated for 2 to 3 June 2021 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, should the prevailing health situation permit it.

Call to stop the use of cluster munitions



In a statement made on 30 March 2021, Switzerland, as President of the 2nd Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), reiterated its call to the parties in any conflict to respect international humanitarian law and to refrain from using cluster munitions.

Switzerland also called on all States that had not yet done so to accede to the Convention immediately. Furthermore, it encouraged States whose accession was complicated by regional security dynamics to consider a coordinated accession to the Convention. The statement was issued in both English and French and can be accessed on the CCM website.

Presentations on the work of the CCM

During the quarter under review, the ISU participated in two virtual events highlighting the work of the Convention.

On 11 March 2021, ISU Director, Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba, was one of the panellists in an event hosted by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and Control Arms on "Disarmament Decisions in the Time of COVID-19". She shared her perspectives on lessons learnt and how CCM implementation had progressed despite the challenges faced during the global pandemic.



During the "Iraq Strategy Stakeholder Workshop" organized by that Iraqi Directorate of Mine Action and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) held from 15 to 18 March 2021, the ISU gave a presentation on the key elements to include in its new strategy with regard to Iraq's CCM implementation.

Update on deadline extension requests considered at 2RC

Due to the postponement of the 2RC Part 2, the extension requests of Bulgaria and Peru (Article 3) and that of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Article 4) were granted by silence procedure on 1 March 2021 in order to respect the Convention deadlines. Decisions on the extension requests of Chile and Lebanon (Article 4) which are yet to be taken will likely have to be approved through a silence procedure as 2RC Part 2 is now forecasted to take place from 2 to 3 June 2021. All extension requests submitted to the 2RC President had been considered and recommended for adoption during the first part of the 2RC held in November 2020. Statements and analyses of these requests can be found on the CCM website.

2020 annual report early bird medallists: Saint Kitts & Nevis, Nicaragua and Zambia



For the 4th consecutive year, the first three States Parties to submit their annual transparency reports were awarded medals in recognition of their diligence in complying with their Article 7 obligation. Saint Kitts & Nevis has returned to its position of Number 1, which it has held every year except for last year. First time medallists, Nicaragua and Zambia, were awarded silver and bronze, respectively. Congratulations!

REMINDER: 2020 annual reports due 30 April 2021

States Parties are kindly reminded that the 2020 annual reports are due on **30 April 2021**, as stipulated by Article 7 of the Convention. This report should cover information for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2020 and be sent to the UN Secretary-General via UNODA at ccm@un.org. The ISU would also appreciate a copy of the report at info@cmconvention.org.

To date, 8 States Parties have outstanding initial transparency reports and are strongly encouraged to submit their initial reports as soon as possible. Reporting instructions can be found on the CCM website.