

CMC Statement on Transparency

CCM 2RC, 25-27 November 2020



Thank you, Mr. President.

The confidence-building aspects of transparency reporting to the convention should not be undervalued as we live in a multilateral system with diminished trust.

Transparency deters violations of the norm of non-use of cluster munitions and reassures other states that the norm is being observed. Transparency builds confidence in the convention and is crucial to the success in this convention.

Annual reporting provides all information relevant to a State's fulfillment of its obligations under the convention.

Seven States Parties are late, mostly many years late, in providing their initial transparency reports. 40% of states with Article 7 transparency reports due by 30 April this year are yet to submit them. But then, 40% of states with Article 7 transparency reports due by 30 April last year didn't submit them either. Are the ISU and Coordinator on Transparency simply ignored when reaching out? Do other states parties assist with this in the spirit of cooperative compliance?

At the First Review Conference, states parties set for themselves in the Dubrovnik Action Plan: to report in time, initially and annually; and to make practical use of the reporting. We have an equally excellent, if not better, wording regarding transparency reporting in the draft Lausanne Action Plan of the 2nd Review Conference. It will make a difference only if States Parties take their obligation seriously.

Transparency reporting is a strong tool to enhance activities of States Parties, in particular those with obligations on clearance, stockpile destruction, and victim assistance. Regular annual reports assist states to effectively plan their activities, and ensure the optimal use and allocation of resources.

The Cluster Munition Coalition would like to again draw your attention to the lack of use of voluntary Form J. This is not a late add-on for reporting, but an opportunity to strengthen the convention by reporting on your actions to promote universalization, your actions to discourage use of cluster munitions, to provide details on cooperation and assistance support, or to report on other important matters such as your position on interpretive issues.

The CMC reiterates its request to states to submit their transparency reports by the deadline and provide complete information, including definitive statements. Comprehensive submissions build a strong convention.

In closing the CMC would direct States Parties to read further the Transparency section of the 2020 Cluster Munition Monitor report.