

Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

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**Review of the operation and status of the Convention and other
matters important for achieving the aims of the Convention:
Universalization**

Ways Forward on Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

**Presented to the Second Review Conference of the Convention on
Cluster Munitions by the Republic of Chile and the Republic of the
Philippines in their capacity as coordinators for the Universalization of
the Convention**

1. While there have been continued efforts to promote universal adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and its norms, several challenges to the Convention's universalization still remain. These challenges include, among others, the following:

1.1. Security concerns. It was noted that in some regions, states are hesitant to accede to the Convention due to security concerns posed by their neighbours, who have yet to commit to the destruction of cluster munitions stockpiles.

1.2. Bureaucratic difficulties. Many signatories are still undertaking their respective domestic ratification processes that will complete their adherence to the Convention. There are challenges to maintaining momentum in these processes including, among others, elections and other personnel changes.

1.3. Insufficient comprehension of what the Convention entails by many decision-makers at the national level, which makes it difficult for them to fully commit their countries to accession. Some states think that joining the Convention would entail additional costs or other burdens while others are hesitant to commit because of possible additional compliance obligations. There are also instances where states, particularly those that are not contaminated by cluster munitions or do not maintain stockpiles of cluster munitions, are unable to fully appreciate the benefits of joining the Convention.

2. These challenges have been exacerbated by the prevailing political, economic, and security environment, including, among others, the disruptions caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which in many regions of the world will have long term effects.

3. Notwithstanding the above stated, and given that the universalization of the Convention is a common responsibility of all its States Parties, the current situation behoves the States Parties to undertake several steps that could sustain the momentum with regard to the promotion of adherence to the Convention and its norms.



4. It is in this context that the Republic of Chile and the Republic of the Philippines, in their capacity as coordinators for universalization, recommend that State Parties under the leadership of the Presidency undertake the following initial actions:

4.1. Sustain and support the work of an Informal Working Group on Universalization composed of the Presidency, all interested States Parties, relevant institutions and other partners that intend to substantially contribute to broader efforts to promote the Convention's universalization. This Group, to be co-chaired by the coordinators for universalization and supported by the Convention's Implementation Support Unit, shall meet periodically and discuss in an informal capacity to exchange ideas, generate synergies, strategize and harmonize efforts towards the active promotion of formal adherence to the Convention by signatory States and States not party.

4.2. Identify States that are most likely to take steps towards formal adherence to the Convention as "low-hanging fruits," intensify efforts to convince them to actively undertake these steps, and constructively assist them in doing so. These low-hanging fruits could include, among others, the following:

4.2.1. Signatories to the Convention that have yet to their complete domestic ratification processes;

4.2.2. States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention that are not yet parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions; and

4.2.3. States not party to the Convention but have issued unilateral declarations in support of the Convention's norms or have submitted voluntary transparency reports or have taken interim steps.

4.3. Identify regional organizations with ongoing processes that can incorporate the promotion of the Convention or its norms in their work plans or facilitate regional discussions that could foster the promotion of adherence to the Convention or its norms.

4.4. Identify and cultivate "CCM champions" across national bureaucracies, including legislators, military officials, civil servants, that are in a position to promote adherence to the Convention and its norms within the domestic structures of their respective countries.

4.5. Explore the possibility of identifying prominent personalities which could be designated as Special Envoys or representatives that could help promote adherence to the Convention and its norms.

4.6. Continue facilitating specialized workshops, including those that facilitate military-to-military dialogue, with the view to fostering discussions towards the Convention's universalization within specific partners; and engage States not party through formal channels such as demarches and diplomatic correspondences.

4.7. Continue to promote the country coalition mechanism particularly with States likely to have obligations under articles 3, 4 and 5 of the Convention so that they are assured of international cooperation and assistance in their implementation of the Convention.

4.8. Identify and strengthen partnerships with relevant or like-minded organizations and institutions that could support universalization efforts
