

**Mr. President**

Firstly I would like to thank you and your team and the ISU for your tireless efforts in preparing this Conference during this challenging situation of COVID\_19.

It is a pleasure for Iraq to take the floor as a coordinator on Transparency Measures in order to highlight the work has been made since the first Review Conference of the CCM in the context of Transparency Reports.

As we are all aware all States parties to the convention on cluster munitions are required to report initially within 180 days of entry into force of the Convention for the state party and then annually with updates by 30 April of each year.

**Mr. President**

Over the last five years, coordinators on Transparency Measures had three main objectives: firstly was to facilitate increasing the number of states parties submitting their initial article 7 reports, secondly to encourage increasing the rate of timely submission of annual reports and thirdly, to facilitate increasing the practical use of reporting.

To achieve these objectives, we have followed three strategies:

The first is to identify States Parties requiring assistance in submitting their initial report.

The Second is to interact with States parties through bilateral meetings and workshops such as the workshops that were held in the margins of UNGA sessions in New York under the kind facilitation of New Zealand as the coordinator on National Implementation Measures.

Lastly, among these strategies, we were working together with the ISU to send reminders regularly to the States parties to encourage them for submitting their annual and initial reports in a timely manner.

**Mr. President,**

At the end of the First Review Conference, 19 initial reports were overdue. By the 6MSP, the number had risen to 22. Since then, the number of overdue initial Reports has decreased to only seven in 2020, which represent reduction of approximately 60 per cent.

Between 2015 and 2020, 32 States Parties have submitted their initial reports. 23 out of these reports were submitted late while nine were submitted on time.

As at 24 November, seven (7) States Parties namely (Cabo Verde, Comoros, Congo, Guinea, Madagascar, Rwanda and Togo) have yet to comply with this important obligation. Only one new State Party which is São Tomé and Príncipe has initial reports not yet due.

## **Mr. President**

During the period under review, 75 per cent of States Parties submitted their annual Article 7 reports on average with 51 per cent of them submitting their reports by the Convention stipulated deadline of 30 April. Nevertheless, an overall decrease in the submission rate of annual reports from 82 per cent in 2015 to 68 per cent in 2019 was observed. This is mainly a result from the increase in the number of States Parties and the fact that many of them were often late in submitting their initial reports. And two signatory states and one non-state Party have submitted a voluntary Article 7 report during this period.

## **Mr. President**

In 2020, despite the difficult situation of COVID19, 65 states parties submitted their annual reports, which is the highest number of submission of annual reports in the convention.

In concluding, Mr. President, as Coordinator on Transparency measures, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all states parties that submitted their article 7 reports in a timely manner and appeal to those States parties that still need to submit their annual or initial reports to do so as soon as possible.

I thank you, Mr. President,.

## **Concluding remark**

Thank you Mr. President

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have shared their views on transparency measures, thank you very much for your inputs and comments, which will be very useful for our future work and plans. Article 7 reports remains key channel for collecting all necessary and relevant information needed to meet the convention obligations. I believe a lot has been said, nevertheless, we reiterate our invitation to encourage states to meet their obligation under article 7 and to submit the transparency reports in timely manner. Therefore, I just want to repeat the call to all states parties to check out the Article 7 forms, which are available at united nation website: [www.unog.ch](http://www.unog.ch) and ensure that these forms are filled on time and submitted. Thank you very much.