



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2017 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

## Highlights (1 January – 31 March)



### Save the date for the Seventh Meeting of States Parties (7MSP)

The Seventh Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (7MSP CCM) will take place from **4 to 6 September 2017 in Geneva**, at the Palais des Nations. Pursuant to the decision of the First Review Conference and to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 70/54, the Secretary-General of the United Nations convened the 7MSP by issuing a note verbale on the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) website. Similarly, an invitation letter was also addressed to International Organizations.

States, international organizations and civil society representatives wishing to participate should send letters/notes verbales to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs no later than Friday, **18 August 2017 at [ccm@unog.ch](mailto:ccm@unog.ch)** or United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Office C-117, United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. For more information: <http://www.unog.ch/>

### 7MSP CCM President statement at the 20<sup>th</sup> NDM-UN meeting in Geneva

The 20th Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN) took place on 7–10 February 2017 at the Palais des Nations at UNOG. This year's theme was "Twenty years of Mine Action; Needs-driven, people-centred". Participants included representatives of mine action programmes, UN departments and agencies, NGOs, humanitarian institutions, research organizations, donor governments and other mine action implementing partners. This annual meeting provided an opportunity for delegates to network and exchange on the ways in which mine action has evolved over the past two decades.



The CCM President was invited to speak on the panel on the "Challenges on Completion". In his intervention, Ambassador Biontino raised **the topics of the state of play in the CCM** and presented **the "country coalitions" concept to promote the implementation of CCM**. The general idea of this concept is to set up a framework to enhance international cooperation with a country specific focus. He brought up particular challenges of completing the obligations of the Convention and proposed country coalitions as a comprehensive and holistic approach to address these problems. For the President's full statement: [www.clusterconvention.org](http://www.clusterconvention.org)

## 10th anniversary of the Oslo process

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Oslo Conference, which marked the beginning of the Oslo Process, Germany in its capacity as the current Presidency of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) issued the following statement:

“On 22 February 2007, 46 States met for the first time to start the process of eliminating a whole class of weapons which are widely deemed as overly indiscriminate, cause disproportionate civilian suffering and which are considered to be a major impediment to post-conflict reconstruction. As a result of this process the CCM was adopted in May 2008 and entered into force on 1 August 2010. Currently there are 119 States that have committed to the CCM: 100 States Parties and 19 signatories. Despite some large military powers still being outside the convention, the legal norm established by the CCM is gaining strength and has helped to significantly reduce the use of cluster munition in conflicts around the world and to tackle the legacy of previous cluster munition use.”



## Regional Seminar with South East Asian countries on the Country Coalition Concept

Initiated by the CCM President and funded by the EU, a South East Asia regional seminar was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from **16 to 17 March 2017**. The meeting was jointly organized by the European External Action Service through the EU Non-proliferation Consortium, and UNESCAP with the support of the ISU-CCM.



The seminar was attended by representatives of 7 States: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Also participating were representatives of EU member States, international organizations, and members of civil society from the region. Participating as resource persons were representatives of the ICRC, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC). The ISU-CCM and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (ISU-APMBC) also provided their technical input into the workshop.

The purpose of the seminar was to discuss future developments impacting the implementation of the CCM with a specific focus on the concept of establishing **country coalitions** (i.e. with a country specific focus) as a means to **enhance international cooperation** and thus **support the implementation of the Convention in South-East Asia**.

### Contact details

Implementation Support Unit of the Cluster Convention Munitions (ISU-CCM)  
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2C, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland  
[info@clusterconvention.org](mailto:info@clusterconvention.org)  
See more at: [www.clusterconvention.org](http://www.clusterconvention.org)