
Convention on Cluster Munitions

26 June 2013

Original: English

Fourth Meeting of the States Parties

Lusaka, 10–13 September 2013

Item 10 (g) of the provisional agenda

Consideration of matters pertaining to Cooperation and Assistance in accordance with Article 6

Cooperation and assistance

Submitted by Mexico and Sweden

The coordinators of cooperation and assistance submit this working paper to the 4MSP and seek States Parties' views on the ideas expressed therein. The present paper builds on, and attempts to develop, the ideas put forward in a 2012 non-paper by Spain and Mexico as coordinators of cooperation and assistance.

Challenges in cooperation and assistance

1. As other similar disarmament instruments, the CCM shares the challenges of taking cooperation and assistance to countries with needs, to enhance the possibilities of dealing with challenges faced. Affected states encounter difficulties in obtaining a clear view of resources available and means of mobilizing them, and donor states find it difficult to get an overview of needs. It is in the interest of the CCM to seek to improve this situation.
2. Article 6 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions stipulates that, in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention, each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance, and that each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance.
3. According to action #42 of the Vientiane Action Plan, cooperation and assistance applies to all the provisions and objectives of the Convention, and goes beyond financial resources, including assistance and technical cooperation, exchange of information and good practices. Furthermore, action #43 asks State Parties to ensure the provision of a specific and effective framework to identify needs and mobilise resources. In addition to this, actions #45 and #46 speak to the need to promote cooperation amongst all States Parties and to initiate such cooperation in order to ensure the full implementation of the Convention.
4. There is room for improving the channels of contact between the parties of the Convention and new technologies can play an important role in this regard. The coordinators of cooperation and assistance propose to address the need for better channels of communication by creating an online Cooperation Portal for potential recipients of

cooperation and donors. Such a portal should be constructed using information provided on a voluntary basis. It would be used, for example, by States Parties seeking assistance, to publish a detailed description of potential needs and suggestions of projects. Donors could use the portal, for instance, to share information on available resources, and to provide information on the requirements to submit projects or consider possible support.

“Cooperation Portal” – Guiding principles

5. *Low or zero-cost*: the setting up of this portal would not require any additional resources other than those already available in the future Implementation Support Unit. The participant states should be the ones responsible for the content published on the webpage.
6. *Simplicity*: the portal is not envisioned to be a complex database but rather a virtual tool and platform. A form or a template could be designed to structure the information provided and guarantee a certain level of uniformity, while leaving enough space of manoeuvre to organise the information in the most suitable way for each State Party.
7. *Complementarity*: The portal is not intended to replace any already existing cooperation mechanism. Nor would it replace reporting requirements under the Convention. However the information set out in the respective national reports may be a basis for further elaboration when submitting material to the cooperation portal.
8. *Voluntary*: The use of the Cooperation Portal would be voluntary for all State Parties.

Functioning

9. The working language of the portal would be English to ensure the widest possible reach. If translation of material should be undertaken by the future ISU the principle of low or zero cost would be difficult to maintain.
10. The information would be sent by e-mail to the ISU, using the above mentioned templates of forms. These texts would contain either a description of requirements, an explanation of how to access support, or examples of on-going projects that would work as an exchange of experiences. The ISU would then proceed to publish them on the Portal.
11. The Portal would be protected by a password, which would be changed regularly. This will ensure that the information is available only to States Parties or Signatories of the Convention that request it.
12. The information should be renewed within a reasonable time-frame. A certain lifespan for the submitted information could be set, and it would be removed after that deadline has expired, if it has not been renewed already by the State Party concerned.
13. The Portal should also be structured to enable the publication of information from relevant international organizations and NGOs operating in the sector.
14. Similar work is underway within the framework of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban Convention (APLBC), and given that structures in place for mine action are in many respects similar to those for action on cluster munitions, there may be experiences gained in the work of the APLBC that could be of use in the context of the CCM.
15. If resources within the future ISU permit, the information available could be expanded to include sources of funding and expertise not provided by States Parties, such as trust funds within the CPRD and other similar instruments or regional cooperation organizations.

16. This paper is presented as food for thought for delegations to explore the viability of the idea, pending the establishment of a future ISU.
