
Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

15 November 2023

English only

Geneva, 15-17 November 2023

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

Status of implementation of and compliance with the Convention and its Protocols

Compliance Annual Reports Analysis

Informal note prepared by the Implementation Support Unit

I. Introduction

1. At the Third Review Conference (2006), the High Contracting Parties (HCPs) to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) decided to establish a compliance mechanism, which, among other things, seeks consultation and cooperation among High Contracting Parties and national measures for implementation of the Convention. To submit their Compliance Annual Reports (CARs), High Contracting Parties use the reporting forms and the summary sheet as adopted by the Meeting of High Contracting Parties in 2007 (CCW/MSP/2007/5, Paragraph 32, Paragraph 35, Annex VI).

2. This note was prepared by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to provide information to HCPs on quantitative and qualitative trends related to the submission of CARs. It offers statistics on submissions since January 2007 and a brief analysis of the information provided by High Contracting Parties in CARs submitted in 2023 (for the reporting period of 2022). CARs that were submitted until August 2023 have been included in the analysis. Only information from reports that are publicly available has been used.

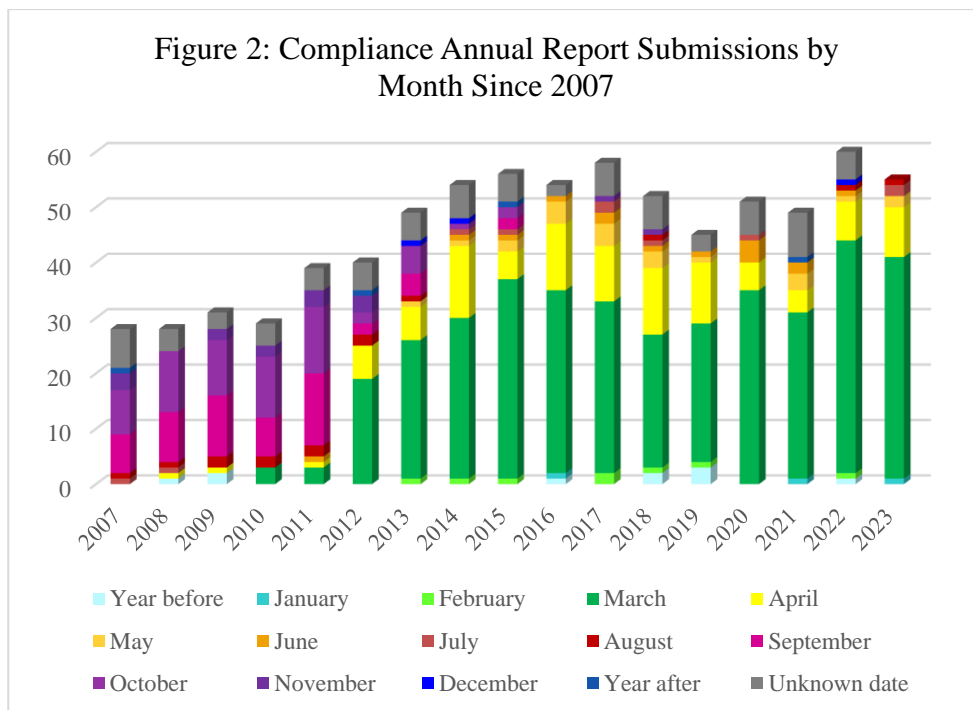
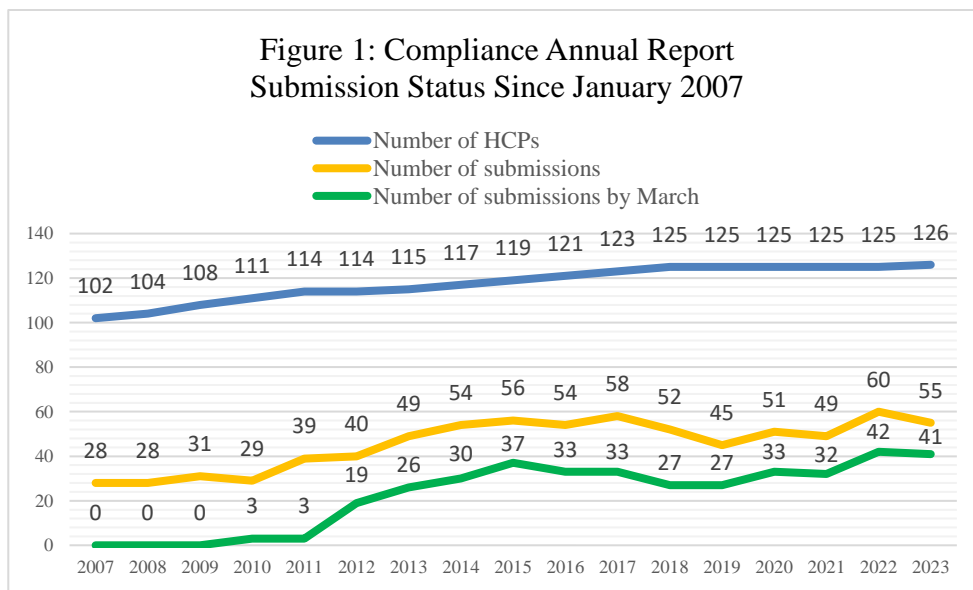
3. The preparation of this note is based on the mandate of the ISU to serve as a focal point for submission of information by and to the High Contracting Parties related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols and to support the High Contracting Parties, on request, in the implementation of the CCW and its Protocols. It follows from requests by CCW officeholders, in 2022, to provide succinct quantitative and qualitative analyses of CARs and National Annual Reports under Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, to inform High Contracting Parties at the annual meetings during their consideration of the relevant agenda items. The preparation of the note was made possible through voluntary contributions received in support of the universalization, implementation and strengthening of the CCW,¹ which has enabled UNODA to provide strengthened support to identify and overcome gaps and challenges in the current compliance and implementation mechanisms of CCW.

II. Overall submission status since 2007

4. Since January 2007, the ISU has received a total of 778 CARs. The submission rate has remained relatively low throughout the years, with an average of fewer than half of HCPs submitting their compliance reports each year. The average annual submission rate is 38% of

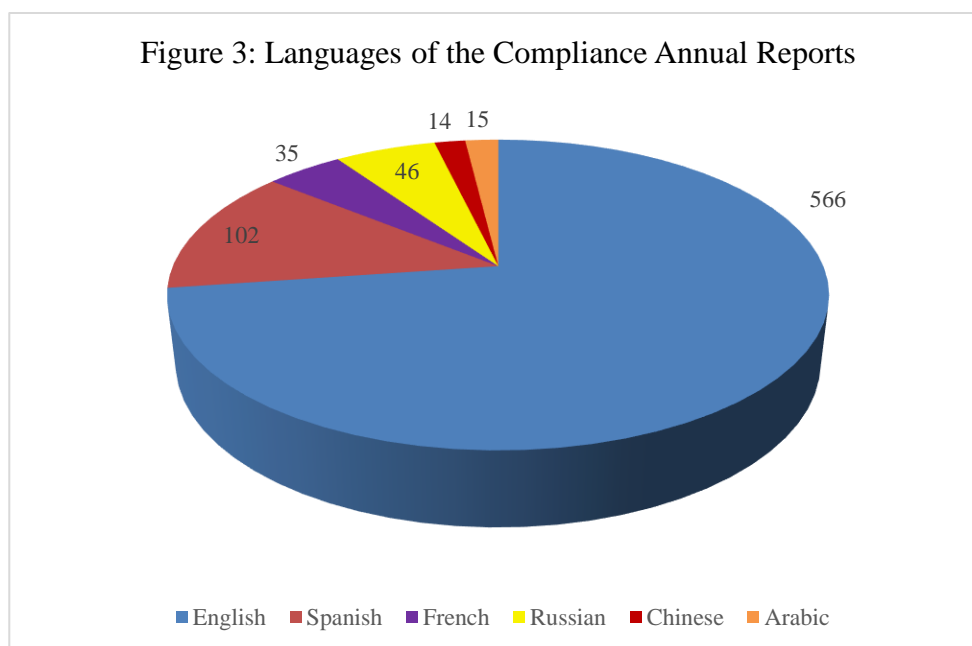
¹ Under the UNODA project in support of the universalization, implementation and strengthening of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW).

all HCPs at any given time. The submission number reached its highest peak in 2022 with 60 submissions, amounting to 48% of HCPs (see figure 1).



5. As per the decision on the Compliance Mechanism, HCPs should submit their CARs in advance of the Meeting of the HCPs. Between 2007 and 2009, most HCPs submitted their compliance reports in September, October, and November, which corresponds to the period during which the meeting of the HCPs is held. In 2010, at the Fourth CCW Review Conference, the deadline for the submission of compliance reports was set to 31 March of each calendar year. Consequently, starting in 2010, HCPs began submitting their reports in March of each year, deviating from the previous reporting pattern (see figure 2). Nevertheless, the ISU continues to receive the reports all year round.

6. Of the 778 reports received, 566 were submitted in English, 102 in Spanish, 46 in Russian, 35 in French, 15 in Arabic and 14 in Chinese (see figure 3).



7. HCPs can be categorized into four groups based on their CAR submission rate since the year they became parties to the Convention. The four groups consist of: HCPs with a 0% submission rate; HCPs with less than 50% submission rate; HCPs with a submission rate of 50% and above; and HCPs with a 100% submission rate.

8. Forty-one out of 126 HCPs have never submitted their Compliance Annual Reports. Regional trends² for these HCPs are as follows: 19 HCPs from Africa; 12 from Asia; 8 from the Americas; 1 from Europe; and 1 from Oceania. Out of these HCPs, 27 became HCPs to the CCW before 2007, which was when the compliance mechanism was established.

9. There are 34 HCPs with a submission rate of less than 50%. Within this group, the regional trends are as follows: 6 HCPs from Africa; 9 from the Americas; 10 from Asia; and 9 from Europe. Out of these HCPs, 26 became HCPs to the CCW before 2007. The highest submission rate of an HCP within this group is 47% (8 actual submissions³ out of 17 possible submissions⁴) and the lowest submission rate is 5% (1 actual submission out of 17 possible submissions).

10. There are 48 HCPs with a submission rate of 50% and above. In this group, there is 1 HCP from Africa, 8 HCPs from the Americas, 8 HCPs from Asia, 29 HCPs from Europe and 2 HCPs from Oceania. Out of these HCPs, 46 became HCPs to the CCW before 2007. The highest submission rate for this group is 94%, which corresponds to 16 actual submissions out of 17 possible submissions, and the lowest submission rate is 58%, which corresponds to 10 actual submissions out of 17 possible submissions.

11. Regarding the HCPs with a 100% submission rate, 3 HCPs from Europe have been submitting their Compliance Annual Reports every year since they became HCPs to the CCW, which occurred for all before 2007.

III. Submission status in 2023

12. As of 31 August 2023, the ISU had received 55 Compliance Annual Reports for the year 2022. Seventy-one HCPs had yet to submit their reports.

13. Out of the 55 Compliance Annual Reports submitted to the ISU, 29 reports were from HCPs in Europe, 13 from HCPs in Asia, 1 from an HCP in Oceania, 8 from HCPs in the

² For the purpose of this analysis, the UN geographical regions as per the UN Statistics Division are used.

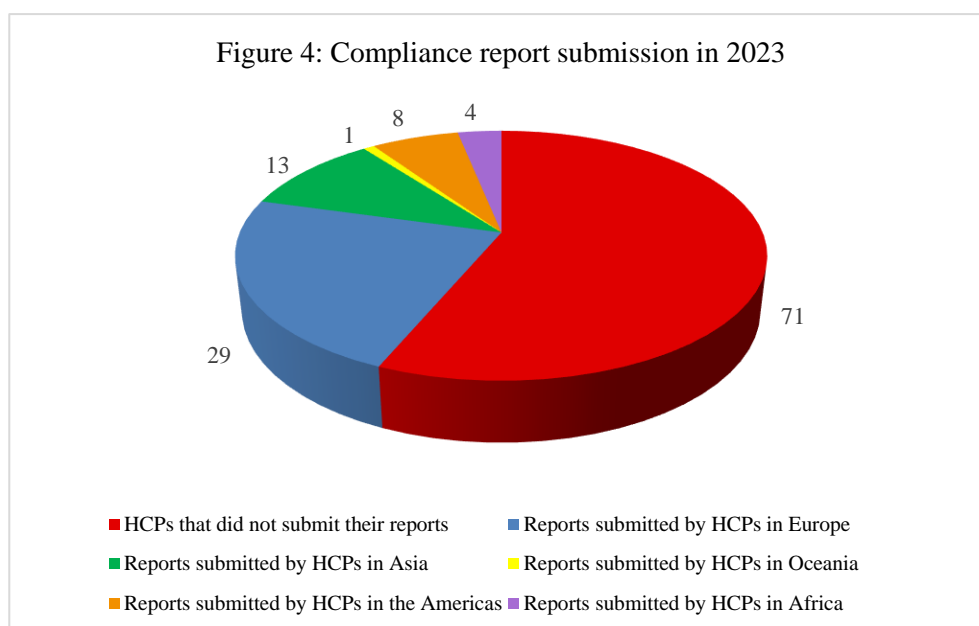
³ Actual submission means the number of reports submitted.

⁴ Possible submission means the possible number of reports that could have been submitted starting from 2007 when the decision on compliance mechanism was made.

Americas and 4 from HCPs in Africa. The number of overall submissions decreased by 8% from the previous year. Out of the 55 submissions, 41 were submitted by March. Six of the reports submitted are not available publicly, as per the indication of the HCPs. Four HCPs submitted their reports for the first time. (See Figure 4).

14. With regard to the language of submissions, 36 reports were submitted in English, 7 in Spanish, 3 in Russian, 3 in French, 1 in Chinese and 5 in Arabic.

15. Of the 55 HCPs that submitted their reports, 45 designated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or Ministry of Defence as national contact points. Other entities designated as national contact points are, for example, the Ministry of Interior, Prime Minister's Office and National Centres for Demining. Two HCPs did not indicate information on the designated national contact point and 3 HCPs designated individuals rather than entities as national contact points.



IV. Overview of information in reports submitted in 2023

16. The CAR forms request information from HCPs on: dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population (form A); steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto (form B); legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols (form C); Measures taken on technical cooperation and assistance (form D); and other relevant matters (form E). The paragraphs below summarize information received under each form.

Form A: Dissemination of information

17. Most HCPs have indicated no change in this section compared to the previous year. They indicated that information regarding the CCW and its Protocols is normally included in their military training courses. Some HCPs also included humanitarian demining in their curricula. One HCP reported that it has been using a landmine compliance distance learning system for its military personnel. Apart from training courses that are organized at the national level, one HCP also reported that it has sent its representatives to participate in training courses at the regional level.

18. Several HCPs reported that the dissemination of information to non-military audiences was conducted through mine risk education. Such activities were normally coordinated by national mine action authorities while also involving various entities

including international organizations and/or non-governmental organizations. Mine risk education included projects of marking as well as placing warning signs. One HCP also reported that it has provided a guide to military trade enterprises regarding the items and activities prohibited by the CCW and its Protocols.

Form B: Technical requirements and relevant information

19. Some HCPs reported on progress they have made in this area, including on mine clearance and destruction, and one HCP indicated the completion of the construction of an international humanitarian demining training centre in which training on the detection and elimination of explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance is provided.

Form C: Legislation

20. Several HCPs reported unchanged information in this form. Some HCPs provided updated information on their national legislation, including new provisions in their penal codes that criminalized acts related to acquiring, carrying, possessing, providing, or manufacturing firearms without authorization. Some HCPs also referred to new legislation adopted, including on combating terrorism, preventing money laundering and smuggling activities of arms and ammunition. In addition, a few HCPs issued new administrative orders related to the regulation of certain types of civilian explosives, the establishment of national control lists of dual-use items, and the adoption of national mine action standards (including operational procedure and clearance standards).

Form D: Technical cooperation and assistance

21. Some HCPs reported activities on technical cooperation and assistance conducted in 2022. These activities included the provision of experts and training courses for other HCPs and the provision of demining equipment, supplies and financial support bilaterally. Furthermore, HCPs reported their financial contributions and provision of experts to international missions and relevant international organizations in the area of mine action. Numerous discussions, dialogues, and exchanges of information among HCPs both at technical and policy levels were also reported under this form.

Form E: Other relevant matters

22. Some HCPs included additional information on various related matters, including the number of explosive remnants of war destruction; the progress of cleaning contaminated areas; the destruction of explosive ordnance; the contribution through UN-established groups (including the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems and UN Open-ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition); and new and updated courses for personnel deployed at international missions.
