

Cluster Munitions Campaign Update – 31/03/09

On 3 - 4 December 2008, 94 governments signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions at the Signing Conference in Oslo and the treaty is now gathering signatures in New York. The Convention prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions and places obligations on countries to clear affected areas, assist victims and destroy stockpiles.

The priority of the CMC in 2009 is to conclude an intensive global ratification campaign to ensure that 30 countries ratify the Convention without delay in order to bring the Convention into force and begin the formal process of implementation. The CMC will also continue to campaign in countries that have not yet signed the Convention to encourage them to sign the treaty as soon as possible at the UN in New York.

Event on the Convention on Cluster Munitions in New York

On Wednesday 18 March 2009 the United Nations hosted a special event on the Convention on Cluster Munitions which was attended by 71 countries. At the event, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the country most affected by cluster bombs in the world ratified the Convention and the Democratic Republic of Congo, also a country affected by cluster bombs, signed the treaty becoming the 96th government to join.

TREATY STATUS

5 COUNTRIES HAVE RATIFIED THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS:

1. The Holy See
2. Ireland
3. Lao PDR
4. Norway
5. Sierra Leone

Ratification and entry into force

30 ratifications are needed for the Convention to **enter into force** and become binding international law. Only when the Convention enters into force will states be bound by all of the Convention's terms and will the deadlines start counting down for clearance of contaminated land and destruction of remaining stockpiles.

The CMC is challenging all states to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions without delay and to strive to be among the first 30 states responsible for triggering entry into force.

96 COUNTRIES HAVE SIGNED THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS:

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, DR Congo, Republic of Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte D' Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, The Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia.