Why cluster munitions are banned under the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions

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What is a cluster munition?

[Diagram showing how cluster bombs work, including steps such as projectile launched from an artillery unit or released from an aircraft, projectile opens releasing bomblets after a predetermined time, and individual bomblets fall down to a broad target area.]

Source: GlobalSecurity.org, Human Rights Watch, Cluster Munition Coalition
Cluster munitions are problematic at the time of use...

- Wide area impact means it can’t distinguish between a civilian or a military target
- Cluster munitions are often used in populated areas, where civilians will always fall victim
- Anyone within each strike area is likely to be injured or killed

And long afterwards...

- Cluster munitions are notoriously unreliable, leaving very dangerous unexploded submunitions after conflicts end
Why Cluster Munitions Were Banned

High failure rate ➔ Widespread & long-term contamination
Why Cluster Munitions Were Banned

- Tens of thousands have already fallen victim – the Convention on Cluster Munitions will prevent more
- Civilians are the vast majority of casualties
- Children are often the innocent victims
The Solution

• 2008 Convention on Cluster Munition
• Legally binding international treaty
• Comprehensive global ban on cluster munitions
• Disarmament and humanitarian elements
• Entered into force on 1 August 2010
2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions

Prohibited to:
• Use, produce, stockpile and transfer cluster munitions

States Parties must:
• Destroy stockpiles (8 years maximum)
• Clear contaminated areas (10 years maximum)
• Assist victims
• Provide technical, material and financial assistance to States Parties affected by cluster munitions
• Promote universalization of the Convention and ban norm
The Convention Is Working

• 114 countries have joined (86 States Parties)
• 18 countries have ceased production
• 140 million stockpiled submunitions destroyed
• Cluster munition-affected land is being cleared, with help from other states
• The stigma against cluster munitions is strong

To prevent future use, more countries need to sign join the Convention. With every new country that joins, the global norm rejecting these weapons is reinforced.
Why All States Should Reject Cluster Munitions

Cluster munitions are:

• Outdated weapons
• Counterproductive for modern warfare
• Poor defensive weapons
• Condemned by the international community
• Banned under international humanitarian law

⇒ It is no longer strategically sensible or politically acceptable to use cluster munitions

www.stopclustermunitions.org
Why All States Should Prioritise the CCM

- Prevent further harm to civilians and end indiscriminate killing
- Show solidarity with people and communities that have suffered from cluster munition use
- Join a diverse group of states that have already rejected these weapons
- Strengthen the global stigma
- Promote human security and address armed violence
- Gain access to international cooperation and assistance
- Being part of a life-saving treaty and making your children proud!

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Next steps

• Make it your cause
• Accede to or ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions quickly
• Encourage other states to join
• Promote the treaty and the norm against cluster munitions
  – Discourage use
  – Condemn any new use
  – Enact a national moratorium on production, transfer and use
• Include cluster munitions in your thematic statement on Conventional Weapons – scheduled next week
• Find out more at: www.stopclustermunitions.org | www.the-monitor.org | www.clusterconvention.org