

Statement on the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions

First Committee on Disarmament and International Security

16 October 2015



The Cluster Munition Coalition is a global civil society campaign made up of organizations from around the world working to eradicate cluster munitions through the full universalization and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In September, government representatives from more than 100 countries gathered in Dubrovnik, Croatia for the 1st Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions-- to assess progress thus far and to establish a roadmap for effective implementation over the next five years.

Just five years since entry into force, achievements are impressive:

- There is widespread adherence to the Convention, with 118 States Parties and signatories;
- Astounding progress on stockpile destruction with 160 million submunitions destroyed, about 90% of stocks declared by states parties;
- Eight States Parties have completed clearance of cluster munition remnants, and more than 255 square kilometers of land have been cleared;
- All States Parties with cluster munition victims provided some victim assistance services and nearly all have acted in accordance with the time-bound actions of the Convention's victim assistance plan.

The Convention is clearly working, making a real difference for affected communities, and helping to build a safer future for us all. Its impacts are both immediate and long-term.

In its short life, the Convention has been largely successful in stigmatizing cluster munitions, in promoting the now widely held view that these weapons, like chemical and biological weapons, like antipersonnel landmines, are an affront to humanity, are barbaric weapons, are weapons that should never be used by anyone at any time.

However, more work remains to be done. Regrettably, some states not party continued to use cluster munitions in 2015. This includes the coalition led by Saudi Arabia in Yemen, as well as the government forces of Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine. Cluster munitions were also used in Libya. While the evidence of use in all these cases is overwhelming, most users have denied it, showing the degree to which states are unwilling to be associated with the internationally-shunned cluster munition.

Continued progress is also needed to complete clearance efforts and ensure that the needs of cluster munition victims are met and their rights are upheld.

The Review Conference was successful in sending a clear message that all use of cluster munitions anywhere and by anyone is unacceptable and that concerted efforts must be made to fully universalize the Convention, strengthen the stigma against use and effectively implement all obligations.

The Dubrovnik Action Plan lists activities that states must undertake in the next five years to rid the world of cluster munitions and to address their deadly legacy. States Parties have made a commitment to implement this plan—the Cluster Munition Coalition stands ready to support these efforts.

We call on all signatories to act fast to complete the steps necessary to ratify and become full members of the Convention. Many states are on record in support of the humanitarian goals of the Convention. We also call on states not yet party to accede without delay, joining the majority of the world's countries in making cluster munitions a relic of the past, and in protecting the lives and livelihoods of civilians around the world.

Finally, we remind States of the proposed resolution in support of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We urge all Member States, including States not yet party to the Convention, to use this resolution as an opportunity to express their support for its humanitarian aims—to protect civilians from this indiscriminate weapon.

Thank you.