



FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

7th – 11th of SEPTEMBER 2015

DUBROVNIK, CROATIA



Cluster Munition Coalition

Activity Report

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I. Overview of the First Review Conference

The First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held from 7-11 September 2015 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, was a great success. With government delegates representing more than 100 countries and more than 100 members of the Cluster Munition Coalition participating, the conference reaffirmed the growing norm against the use of cluster munitions while States Parties recommitted to rid the world of cluster munitions and to address their deadly legacy through the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

As a result of the hard work of Cluster Munition Coalition campaigners in capitals and at the Conference, alongside the hard work of many dedicated member states, States Parties adopted a strong Dubrovnik Declaration condemning all use of cluster munitions, by any actor. Efforts by a handful of States Parties to water down this strong language in the Declaration were stymied by the vast majority of States who resoundingly rejected all use.

The universalization of the Convention got a strong boost with Colombia depositing its instrument of ratification on September 10, becoming the 96th State Party. Madagascar and Palau both reported ratification as imminent while Cuba announced that it was making plans to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the near future. Angola also shared plans to ratify shortly.

States' commitment to rapidly destroy cluster munition stockpiles was highlighted as one of the key achievements since the convention came into force. Mozambique and Sweden announced completion of their stockpile destruction, and both Germany and Italy indicated they would finish destruction before the end of the year. France reported it would finish by mid-2016.

The Cluster Munition Coalition contributed to the success of the conference through extensive advocacy and campaigning at the national and international levels, reaching out to States Parties to mobilize their active participation in the conference and encouraging states not party to ratify or accede in time for the conference. During the conference itself, members of the Cluster Munition Coalition were highly visible-- in the plenary, hosting side events and engaging with states to provide factual information and encourage their strong statements and leadership on conference outcome documents.

The First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions demonstrated what can be achieved when committed representatives of civil societies and states work together around a common cause. It also established a clear path for our work together over the next five years to eliminate cluster munitions and their impact worldwide.

II. Preparations

The Cluster Munition Coalition was an active participant in consultations on official documents and it contributed data and expertise (both in writing and through in-person meetings with all Working Groups) to inform the Vientiane Action Plan Review and the Cartagena Action Plan, ensuring that these official documents reflected lessons learned through five years of convention implementation, and the realities of affected communities.

The Cluster Munition Coalition nurtured a close partnership with the Croatian Presidency, providing answers, sharing data and strategizing to make the First Review Conference a success through meetings in Geneva, one visit to Zagreb, two visits to Dubrovnik and other regular communication. Advice was provided *inter alia* on universalization efforts, the participation of survivors, and the Dubrovnik Declaration.

The stigmatization of cluster munition use is a strategic priority for the Cluster Munition Coalition. Such stigma is reinforced when states speak up to condemn any instance of use. This was under jeopardy during the preparations for the First Review Conference as a small number of highly influential states attempted to significantly water-down the text Dubrovnik Declaration. In order to ensure the Dubrovnik Declaration would remain strong in condemning any use of cluster munitions by any actor, the Cluster Munition Coalition successfully worked with partners to strengthen the resolve of States Parties by:

- Disseminating data on all known instances of use
- Presenting comprehensive evidence of use through side events at convention meetings
- Calling on states to condemn use through personalized emails, by mobilizing Coordination Committee members, by providing guidance to coalition members reaching out to decision-makers in capitals, and through a “white ribbon” awareness campaign on the opening day of the First Review Conference
- Recording and publicizing states’ and other partners’ condemnations of use in the lead up to the First Review Conference
- Ensuring coverage of the issue in prominent media outlets such as the New York Times and The Guardian

In addition, accurate data on implementation issues was provided to inform the Croatia Progress Report presented at the First Review Conference, through which states analyze and acknowledge progress made and challenges that remain.

The Cluster Munition Coalition mobilized its members around the world including through launching a two-month countdown to the First Review Conference. The countdown focused on

securing ratifications and accessions to the treaty. National campaign efforts in Colombia and Uganda were supported by two separate global actions urging the two countries to join the treaty. In addition, national campaigns in many countries worked with their governments to prepare them for the conference. This was supported by a virtual campaign in the lead up to the First Review Conference through the Cluster Munition Coalition website, social media and blog focused on mobilizing governments for an active and productive participation in the First Review Conference.

The Cluster Munition Coalition also actively participated in the two Preparatory Meetings (February and June), delivering statements and meeting with delegations to influence their stance on the Dubrovnik Action Plan and Dubrovnik Declaration.

III. Activities at the First Review Conference

a) Lobbying Activities

The Cluster Munition Coalition was represented by 94 campaigners from different countries and all continents. A day before the start of the conference, on 6 September, campaigners participated in a half day orientation on campaign strategy for the conference. Campaigners met with 58 representatives of States Parties including 17 states not party who were present at the conference. African and Latin American campaigners facilitated regional group meetings among states from their respective regions. Both the bilateral and group lobby meetings primarily focused on ratification and accession of the treaty. Other major topics discussed in the lobbying meetings included prohibition of cluster munitions use, inclusion of strong language in condemning cluster munition use in the Dubrovnik political declaration and the Maputo Action Plan and smooth implementation of the treaty. To support efforts to condemn use, white ribbons that depicted the horror of cluster bombs use in Yemen were handed out to delegates on the first day of the conference. Side events and other occasions in the margin of the conference were used by campaigners to reach out to as many delegates as possible to ensure they adopted a strong and action oriented action plan and declaration. In parallel to the direct lobbying activities, social media such as Twitter and Facebook were extensively used by Cluster Munition Coalition campaigners to multiply campaign messages throughout the conference.

b) Survivor Participation

During the course of the Review Conference, Cluster Munition Coalition survivor-campaigners shared personal messages and contributed to Coalition statements and lobbying activities.

As part of the high-level segment of the conference, four survivors delivered messages with their recommendations for further implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The session was opened with the statement by Mirsad Tokic, a Croatian survivor and a peer support worker of the national organization “Mine Aid”, who shared his views on importance of participation of survivors in all processes connected to treaty implementation. Luz Dary Landazuri, a Colombian survivor, spoke about the need to make services for survivors available in remote and rural areas, but also to keep the focus on inclusion in education and the socioeconomic sphere to ensure effective participation of survivors. A young survivor from Italy, Nicolas Marzolino, spoke about the necessity and the obligation of states to prevent future casualties by introducing risk education in all countries affected by armed conflict, calling on the states to enhance international cooperation for this purpose. In the final survivor statement of the high-level segment, ICBL Ambassador Margaret Arach Orech (Uganda) called on states to make efforts to enable economic inclusion of survivors.

Mirsad Tokic also delivered the CMC statement for the session on Transparency Measures, emphasizing the importance of detailed annual reporting and offering assistance from the campaign.

On the margins of the conference, survivors from Albania, Croatia, Colombia, Uganda and Serbia were involved in lobbying meetings. Survivors from Serbia had a productive meeting with the representative of the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Red Cross, planning a national workshop on the Convention on Cluster Munitions with participation of ICRC experts. Others met with government representatives from their own country and/or their region.

The survivor leader from Uganda shared her expertise at the side event on victim assistance (‘The Convention’s Impact on People’), speaking on efforts to network with disabled persons’ organizations and engaging the government at different levels on victim assistance related matters in the pre-accession process.

Additionally, survivor-campaigners unable to attend contributed to the work of the conference by jointly working on a publication about the ICBL-CMC’s Survivor Network Project, which was disseminated at the First Review Conference.¹

c) Media Work

¹ Survivor leaders and members of the Survivor Networks Project-supported organizations from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, DRC, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nepal, Senegal, Somalia and Vietnam.

The First Review Conference received widespread national media attention, with some limited international media coverage of the conference and, particularly, the Wednesday evening "inclusion" performance. Six Croatian news outlets ran stories on, largely focusing on the Croatia's Prime Minister's involvement on opening day of the meeting. In addition, Croatian national television network Nova, ran several interviews throughout the week. Additional on-site coverage of the meeting and "inclusion" event co-organized by Handicap International, included interviews by Kyodo News and a photo essay by independent journalist Till Meyer reporting for Der Spiegel. Cluster Munition Coalition's Ambassador, Branislav Kapetanović was featured in both reports in addition to interviews with the Mine Action Center and Cluster Munition Coalition campaigners. Colombian and Cuban national media covered their delegation's interventions at the meeting regarding Colombia's accession to the convention and Cuba's imminent plans to accede. The meeting was covered by international press in six languages including Arabic, English, French, German, Japanese and Spanish.

Social media was widely used prior and during the conference. Sustained Cluster Munition Coalition twitter activity around the Cluster Munition Monitor 2015 launch and subsequently during the Review Conference was a significant tool in disseminating Monitor findings and campaign messages. More than six hundred tweets were recorded on the @banclusterbombs account from 31 August through the last day of the Review Conference, for an average of 55 tweets per day. Fifteen percent of all tweets were retweeted. The daily user reach of the Cluster Munition Coalition Facebook page grew consistently during the period beginning 17 August and running through the First Review Conference - from some 500 individuals per day to 2,200 on the day of the Monitor report launch to a high of 3,700 individuals reached per day by the end of the high level dialogue at the meeting.

IV. Cluster Munition Monitor Publications

On 3 September, Cluster Munition Monitor 2015 was launched in Geneva at the United Nations in a press briefing hosted by UNIDIR (see [press release](#)). Recognizing the importance of the First Review Conference, the report reviewed developments over the five-year period since the treaty's entry into force, as well as in 2014 and the first half of 2015. In order to build anticipation for the launch as well as the Review Conference, a new [map](#) covering some aspect of cluster munition impact or Convention coverage was posted online each day in the week prior to the launch. Additional resources, taking advantage of the Monitor's new website, were released online including an [interactive timeline](#) of cluster munition use, [infographics](#), special five-year [summaries](#) of ban policy, as well as updated [country profiles](#) of every country in the world. On the first day of the Review Conference, Cluster Munition Monitor hosted a briefing attended by more than 60 delegates to share findings. Monitor experts also contributed to a

number of additional side events during the week. The reports are available in English, with select products also translated into French, Spanish, and Arabic on the [Monitor website](#).

Monitor in the News

Cluster Munition Monitor experts and publications were key resources for media around the globe during and before the First Review Conference. A sample of references can be found in [Deutsche Welle](#), [EFE](#) (Spanish), [Reuters](#), and [The New York Times](#).

V. Side Events

An intensive program of side events organized by Cluster Munition Coalition members allowed participants to get a better understanding and deeper knowledge of the cluster munition problem. Photographs from these side events can be viewed [in our gallery](#). The following side events took place:

- **Cluster Munition Monitor 2015 Briefing - Hosted by Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor**

Leading civil society experts shared the major findings of *Cluster Munition Monitor 2015*. To mark the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the report reviewed the period since the convention entered into force on 1 August 2010. The panelists discussed global developments in ban policy, survey and clearance of cluster munition remnants, and casualties and victim assistance.

- **New Use of Cluster Munitions since the fifth meeting of States Parties - Hosted by Croatia and The Cluster Munition Coalition**

This side event briefed states on cluster munition use since the Fifth Meeting of States Parties, answered any questions, and encouraged states to speak up publicly and bilaterally. The experts presented evidence of incidents of use of cluster munitions in Ukraine, Libya, Sudan, Yemen, and ongoing use in Syria. Moreover, Croatia as the President of the Review Conference presented their perspective and explained why condemnations of use by the international community matter.

- **Protecting civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas - Hosted by INEW**

INEW presented data on explosive weapons use in populated areas globally, and discussed conclusions from this data.

- **“Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions; a shared responsibility” - Hosted by PAX and Cluster Munition Coalition**

This side event provided an update on the Stop Explosive Investments campaign and presented the findings of the 2014 report “Worldwide investments in cluster munitions; a shared responsibility” including information about which financial institutions are investing in cluster munitions producers, as well as examples of states and financial institutions that prevent investments in cluster munitions producers.

- **The CCM in the Middle East and North Africa, a future perspective - Hosted by Protection**

This event, conducted fully in Arabic, looked at future prospects for the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the Middle East and North Africa region.

- **An Implementation Toolbox: Models for National Legislation - Hosted by Human Rights Watch**

This side event provided states with tools to help them develop national legislation to implement the convention. Panelists discussed the three key models for such laws, which have been put forth by ICRC, New Zealand, and Human Rights Watch.

- **The Convention’s Impact on People - Hosted by the Cluster Munition Coalition**

Experts and campaigners for the rights of cluster munition victims from the Lao PDR, Lebanon and Uganda shared their perspectives on what can be learned from victim assistance over the past five years and the broader impacts of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on the people who are at the heart of the convention-- survivors, families and affected communities.

- **In Search of Safe Ground Explosive Remnants of World War II in the Solomon Islands - hosted by SafeGround and Australia**

This side event examined the legacy, blending history and modern day island life to present a picture of the devastating damage still being caused by abandoned World War II munitions in the Solomon Islands.

VI. Exhibitions and Cultural Events

The following exhibitions and cultural events took place:

- **“Living in Danger: Iraq’s cluster bomb legacy” - Photo exhibition organized by the Cluster Munition Coalition**

A photography exhibition by photographer Sean Sutton, commissioned by the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) in collaboration with Mines Advisory Group (MAG), was displayed throughout the week. Iraq is one of most the most heavily contaminated countries in the world as a result of cluster bomb strikes in the 1991 Gulf War and during the 2003 invasion. Through photographing cluster munition survivors, affected community members, clearance experts, and mine risk awareness educators in northern Iraq; this exhibition highlighted the devastating impact of cluster munition use. The photos also showed how, with support, this terrible legacy is being overcome.

- **Addressing Pacific Remnants of War-the Solomon Islands - Photo exhibition organized by SafeGround**

The photos presented a snapshot of the legacy of WWII Explosive Remnants of War in the Solomon Islands and were taken as part of a SafeGround research project in 2014 and 2015. Unexploded and abandoned ordnance left scattered across the Pacific after World War II (WWII) continues to endanger lives and hinder development 70 years after the conclusion of hostilities. The danger of disturbing a discarded munition, and the leaching of poisonous chemicals into the soil, the ocean and waterways, means that this violent chapter of history has never truly been closed for the people of the Pacific Islands - people who were innocent bystanders in a terrible war not of their making. Whilst these munitions remain, this ever-present danger will continue to exist. The first pillar of post-conflict redevelopment must be to make the land and sea safe. Only then is there real potential for solid and ongoing developmental progress.

- **“Barrier:Zones” - Photo exhibition organized by the Handicap International**

The exhibition composed of 15 photo portraits by Till Mayer presented cluster munition and landmine survivors and other people with disabilities and their life stories.

- **The Night of Inclusion - hosted by Handicap International, Germany and Croatia**

“The Night of Inclusion” was an inclusive dance and sports event organized by Handicap International to support cluster bombs survivors and their right to inclusion. The audience

watched a performance of dancers with and without disabilities - including Ballerina Deana Gobac from Zagreb, who has been injured by a cluster bomb in 1995. The dance was followed by a sitting volleyball tournament. Croatian Paralympic professionals played together with cluster bomb survivors, diplomats and activists from different countries. The event was met with an enthusiastic and emotional response from the audience.

VII. Resources Produced for the First Review Conference

The Cluster Munition Coalition produced [campaign tools and materials to](#) support campaigners' advocacy efforts in the lead-up to and during the First Review Conference. Materials included a memo for governments in Arabic, English, French and Spanish to help delegates prepare and actively participate in the Review Conference; a lobbying Guide: a booklet listing advocacy aims, messages and target countries, to support and steer lobbying activities during and beyond the conference; updated briefing papers about the treaty and accession/ratification; slogan logo; banners; stop explosive investment factsheets; a sticker with 'we can stop cluster bombs' and t-shirts for campaigners with the 'we can stop cluster bombs' slogan printed on it. "Living in Danger: Iraq's Cluster Bomb Legacy", a film that was produced in 2013 about impact of cluster munitions in Iraq, was screened in the plenary.

VIII. Statements

The Cluster Munition Coalition delivered statements on all thematic issues, as well as an address during the Opening Ceremony. Statements were based on findings from the Cluster Munition Monitor and reflected the realities of affected communities, and the expertise of the coalition's wide and diverse membership. In addition, the Cluster Munition Coalition coordinated personal messages from five survivors of cluster munitions, explosive remnants of war or other victim-activated weapons. Statements and messages are available at <http://bit.ly/1lxuCbS>

IX. Press Releases

[More States Embrace Ban on Cluster Munitions In Face of New Attacks; 90% of Declared Cluster Munition Stocks Destroyed](#), 3 September 2015 (Launch of Cluster Munition Monitor 2015)

[New States Parties, Condemnation of Cluster Munition Use Highlight First Review Conference, 7 September 2015](#)

[States Embrace Ambitious Plan to Rid the World of Cluster Munitions; Condemn Any Use by Anyone, 11 September 2015](#)



www.stopclustermunitions.org