"My country committed several times to signing the treaty banning cluster bombs, but it has been delayed again and again by administrative issues. It has been five months since the treaty opened for signature, it is high time Nigeria lives up to its promises by signing and banning these indiscriminate killers. Let's sign the treaty now!"

Mimidoo Achakpa, CMC campaigner in Nigeria

Chief Ojo Maduekwe
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maputo Street, off Abidjan Street
Wuse Zone 3, P.M.B. 130
Garki, Abuja
Nigeria

29 May 2009

Dear Minister,

I am writing to urge Nigeria to sign the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

This international treaty comprehensively prohibits cluster munitions, requires destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions within eight years and clearance of contaminated land within 10 years, and recognises the rights of individuals and communities affected by the weapon to receive assistance. Since December 2008, a total of 96 governments have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions including stockpilers, former users and producers of the weapon as well as affected countries from every region of the world.

Nigeria, in coordination with many other African states, actively supported a strong and comprehensive prohibition on cluster munitions during the treaty's negotiation in Dublin in May 2008. Nigeria joined other governments in formally adopting the Convention and announced its intent to sign. This commitment toward the ban was reiterated during an African regional conference on cluster munitions held in Kampala, Uganda in September 2008.

While Nigeria attended the Signing Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, it did not have sufficient 'full powers' documentation to sign the Convention at that time. The Convention is now open for signature at the United Nations in New York. I urge you as Minister if Foreign Affairs to sign the necessary 'full powers' documentation and send it to the United Nations Treaty Section in New York for signature.

Every country wishing to prevent further suffering from the horrors of cluster munitions should join the Convention on Cluster Munitions, This instrument is crucial to ensure the stigmatisation of cluster munitions to make sure this weapon is never used again.

Yours sincerely,

C.c:

- Dr. Shettima Mustapha, Minister of Defence
  Ministry of Defence
  Ship House Area 10
  Abuja
  Nigeria

- Ambassador Joy Ogwu, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations
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