



July 2008

CMC Action Alert

I. CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

CMC has 4 main campaign objectives from now until Oslo.

1. 123 governments to sign the treaty in Oslo - The main aim of our campaigning work from now until the signing ceremony in Oslo, Norway on 3 December will be to ensure that as many countries as possible sign the treaty. We are aiming for 123 states to sign the treaty in Oslo on 3 December. Make sure your government is one of them! The target list of countries that should sign the treaty is in the attached CMC Action Plan. Please let us know when your government announces it will sign the treaty as we are keeping a record of this.

2. Governments to start the process of ratifying the treaty – To make sure that the treaty enters into force (EIF) quickly to become legally binding on states, the CMC is calling on governments to start the necessary procedures for ratification. Some countries may be able to ratify the treaty in Oslo at the same time as they sign. For other states this will not be possible, but all governments can announce that they are starting the ratification process, and we will encourage as many governments as possible to ratify quickly. The target country list is in the attached CMC Action Plan.

3. Governments to make interpretive statements – Some areas of the treaty require further clarification and the CMC is calling on governments to make interpretative statements to develop a common understanding on the treaty obligations. These include: 1) that the treaty does not allow intentional assistance with prohibited acts, 2) that the treaty prohibits investments in cluster munitions, 3) that the treaty prohibits foreign stockpiling of cluster munition producers, 4) that the transit of cluster bombs on or through the territory of a state party is banned and 5) that the number of cluster munitions retained for training and development should be in the hundreds or thousands but not the tens of thousands. For more information, please read the CMC briefing paper on the Convention.

4. 500,000 signatures to be collected for the People's Treaty – One of the main campaign actions from now until Oslo is collecting signatures for the People's Treaty. Sign up and ask others to do the same. Read more below on how you can take part.

II. ACTIONS

1. Write a letter to your government

Throughout the month of July the CMC will be sending letters to all governments enclosing the CMC Briefing Paper on the Convention. We will commend the governments that adopted the Convention in Oslo, and will call on all governments to sign the Convention in Oslo in December. A template letter will be circulated next week for you to adapt and use. We plan to send the letters signed jointly by CMC International and national campaigns. Please can you let me know:

- Which government official (a Minister or the Head of State) we should address the letter to and which diplomats we should copy in the letter, including the correct contact details
- Any country-specific messages to your government

- Who you want the letter sent by: jointly / national campaign only / CMC International only. Please also let us know if you have sent a letter already and if so, what response you have received.

2. Launch the People's Treaty

One of the main campaign actions from now until Dublin is collecting signatures for the People's Treaty. All campaigners should launch the People's Treaty in their country and start collecting signatures for it, if you haven't done so already! Please can you:

Action:

- Set a national target of the number of signatures you plan to collect in your country from now until December and let us know what it is. We are aiming to collect 500,000 internationally.
- Put a link on your website to the People's Treaty website to encourage the visitors to your website to sign the petition www.minesactioncanada.org/peoplestreaty
- Ask community leaders and other celebrities and VIPs to sign the treaty including: faith leaders, members of parliament, mayors, heads of well-known organisations, sports-stars, film and TV stars, musicians, artists, former and current military personnel, clearance operators etc
- Organise public events to collect signatures for the People's Treaty, and collect signatures for the People's Treaty at other events that you are taking part in. (You will need to enter the information onto the People's Treaty website afterwards so that all of the signatures are counted in the global total.)
- Let us know any ideas you have to promote it internationally to increase the number of signatures

Go to the People's Treaty website www.minesactioncanada.org/peoplestreaty and the campaign resources section of the CMC website to download petition forms and other tools.

3. Lobby your government to mention the Convention at the UN General Assembly

Heads of State will gather at the UN headquarters in New York for the opening of the UN General Assembly on 16 September. At the opening, every country's President or Prime Minister will deliver an opening speech outlining its policy agenda for the coming year. Help to make sure that as many countries as possible refer to the new treaty and commit to sign it in Oslo.

Action:

- Lobby your government to make sure that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is mentioned in the opening statements, and that governments announce that they intend to sign it.

4. Ask parliamentary questions on the signing and ratification of the treaty

In addition to sending letters, another way of getting governments to commit to signing the treaty this December is by asking members of parliament to ask a parliamentary question.

Action:

- Contact parliamentarians that you've been working with to ask a parliamentary questions, such as:
 - Will the government sign the treaty in Oslo on 3 December?
 - Can the government let us know when it plans to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions?
 - What measures has the government taken towards ratification of the Convention?

Please let Portia Stratton (pstratton@landmineaction.org) know when questions are asked in your national parliament.

5. Commemorate the cluster bombing of Lebanon on 13 August

13 August marks the 2nd anniversary of the cluster bombing of south Lebanon, causing more than 200 civilian casualties. Make sure that this tragedy is not forgotten and that cluster bombs are never used again. Campaigners in Lebanon are marking this anniversary with a candlelight vigil.

Action:

- Organise a candlelight vigil to remember the victims of cluster bombs in Lebanon, and in other parts of the world, calling on governments to make sure cluster bombs are never used again by signing the Convention in Oslo this December.
- Issue a press release: highlight the devastation caused in Lebanon from the use of cluster bombs in 2006, inform the media about the negotiation of the treaty in Dublin and the strong victim assistance obligations it contains, and call on your government to demonstrate its commitment to prevent future deaths and injuries by signing the treaty in December.

III. NEW MATERIALS

Fact Sheets

- What is a cluster bomb?
- What is the problem?
- How big is the problem?
- Timeline of cluster bomb use
- Cluster bombs and the world at a glance
- Cluster bombs in global stockpiles
- Who is banning cluster bombs?
- Cluster bomb facts and stats
- About the Cluster Munition Coalition

CMC policy briefing papers

- CMC briefing on the Convention on Cluster Munitions – long version
- CMC briefing on the Convention on Cluster Munitions – short version

People's Treaty petition resources

- Petition collection forms
- Hand-shaped petition cards
- Template letter for community leaders

Stickers

- Ban Cluster Bombs
- Sign the Treaty this December
- Make it Happen

Badges

- Ban Cluster Bombs
- Sign the Treaty this December

Posters

- Ban Cluster Bombs – Sign the Treaty This December
- Ban Cluster Bombs – Sign the Treaty This December (adaptable to advertise events)
- People's Treaty Text

News articles

- Make promises a reality – long version
- Make promises a reality – short version

Web Banners

- Ban Cluster Bombs
- Sign the Treaty this December!
- Make it Happen

Logos

- Ban Cluster Bombs
- Sign the Treaty this December

'Unacceptable Harm' photographic presentation

- Unacceptable Harm: 40 years of cluster munitions