



Who is banning cluster bombs?

The Oslo Process

Norway launched an initiative in February 2007, known as the Oslo Process, following the failure of government talks within the traditional forum for discussing weapons issues – the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). Led by Norway and other supportive governments including Austria, the Holy See, Ireland, New Zealand, Mexico and Peru, the Oslo Process set out to create an international treaty by the end of 2008. The February 2007 “Oslo Declaration” was endorsed by 46 countries and committed them to conclude a treaty that would prohibit the use, transfer, and production of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, would require the destruction of existing stockpiles, and provide adequate resources to assist survivors and clear contaminated areas.

Oslo Declaration, 23 February 2007 (Official Document)

A group of States, United Nations Organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Cluster Munition Coalition and other humanitarian organisations met in Oslo on 22 - 23 February 2007 to discuss how to effectively address the humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions.

Recognising the grave consequences caused by the use of cluster munitions and the need for immediate action, states commit themselves to:

1. Conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument that will:
 - i. prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, and
 - ii. establish a framework for cooperation and assistance that ensures adequate provision of care and rehabilitation to survivors and their communities, clearance of contaminated areas, risk education and destruction of stockpiles of prohibited cluster munitions.
2. Consider taking steps at the national level to address these problems.
3. Continue to address the humanitarian challenges posed by cluster munitions within the framework of international humanitarian law and in all relevant fora.
4. Meet again to continue their work, including in Lima in May/June and Vienna in November/December 2007, and in Dublin in early 2008, and welcome the announcement of Belgium to organise a regional meeting.

Following the meeting in Oslo, a series of international conferences were hosted by other supportive governments to discuss the terms of the treaty in Peru, Austria, New Zealand and Ireland. Around 140 countries participated in one or more of the Oslo Process conferences including major user and producer states, affected states and states that stockpile cluster bombs. Regional conferences have also been held in Belgium, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Thailand and Zambia. Serbia also hosted a conference for states affected by cluster munitions.

Timeline of international Oslo Process conferences

February 2007	Oslo Process is launched in Oslo, Norway
May 2007	Lima conference on cluster munitions, Peru
December 2007	Vienna conference on cluster munitions, Austria
February 2008	Wellington conference on cluster munitions, New Zealand
May 2008	Dublin negotiating conference on cluster munitions, Ireland
December 2008	Treaty banning cluster bombs to be signed, Norway

The treaty, or the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), was negotiated and adopted by 111 countries at the Dublin conference in May 2008. When it enters into force, the treaty will be a legally binding international instrument that prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions and obliges states to clear up contaminated areas, and to assist people and communities affected by cluster bombs. The treaty will be open for signature at a signing ceremony in Oslo, Norway on 3 December 2008.

107 states adopted the treaty at the Dublin Conference:

Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (FYR), Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela and Zambia.

Included in this 107 are:

12 out of the 27 countries affected by cluster bombs

37 out of the 78 countries that **stockpile** cluster bombs

17 out of the 34 countries that **have produced** cluster bombs

7 out of the 16 countries that **have used** cluster bombs

35 countries in Europe: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Macedonia (FYR), Moldova, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

33 countries in Africa: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia.

19 countries in the Americas: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

17 countries in Asia and the Pacific: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Seychelles, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu.

5 countries in the Middle East and North Africa: Bahrain, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco and Qatar.