



CMC: Next steps after Oslo

The CMC has 3 main objectives for the remainder of 2008, and for 2009:

1) Ensuring 30 states ratify the Convention quickly to bring the Convention into force

The main objective of the CMC in 2009 is to get 30 countries to ratify the Convention. The Convention will then enter into force 6 months after the 30th ratification. So far, 4 countries have ratified the Convention (Holy See, Ireland, Norway and Sierra Leone). So, 26 countries to go!

Key actions are:

- To identify parliamentarians and government delegates that will drive forward the ratification procedure in your country.
- To provide individuals that will work on this in your parliament and government with the ICRC Ratification Kit and Model Legislation as well as other information to be produced by CMC.
- To ensure that in countries where national law is required for ratification, the legislation makes the strongest possible interpretation of the treaty's provisions.

National workshops and parliamentary briefings on ratification can be useful ways to make progress in these three vital areas

2) Encouraging states that didn't sign in Oslo to sign as soon as possible in New York

States that did not manage to get their full powers in order to sign in Oslo, or that were not able to make the decision to sign in time, can sign at the UN Treaty Section's signature room in New York.

Key actions are:

- To follow up with key officials if your state did not manage to arrange full powers documents to sign the Convention in time. Encourage them to sign now in New York!
- To encourage states that adopted the Convention in Dublin but didn't sign in Oslo to sign in New York, and to encourage other potential signatory states.
- To advocate in countries that face obstacles preventing them from signing and providing information and arguments to promote signature and ratification.

Make sure governments know that they can still sign the treaty – and tell them how to do it!

3) Urging states to take steps to implement the Convention

Even before the Convention enters into force, states should take steps to start to implement the Convention. According to international law,¹ all signatories should consider themselves bound by the object and purpose of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Key actions are:

- To urge signatories to begin developing comprehensive national implementation legislation
- To urge stockpiling governments to complete an inventory of cluster munition stockpiles and start the process to destroy existing stocks.
- To urge donor governments to pledge funding to assist affected countries to clear contaminated areas and assist affected communities.
- To urge affected countries to develop a national action plan on victim assistance and to develop concrete plans for donors on implementation of the Convention.

¹ Article 18 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.