

Cluster Munition Coalition Newsletter

Treaty Status

Signatures in
December: 1
(Cameroon)

Ratifications in
December: 2 (New
Zealand, Belgium)

[www.stopclustermunitions.org/
treatystatus/](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/treatystatus/)

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International News

Convention on the brink of 30th ratification

Two new ratifications during December have put the Convention on Cluster Munitions on the brink of entering into force. Just four more ratifications are now needed for the Convention to reach the threshold of 30 required for entry into force six months later.

On 22 December both New Zealand and Belgium deposited their ratification instruments, making them the 25th and 26th countries respectively to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions.



Ambassador Jim McLay, New Zealand's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, deposits his government's ratification instrument. Photo Credit: UN Treaty Section

Ambassador Jim McLay, New Zealand's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) in New York, deposited his government's ratification instrument on 22 December.

Later that same day, H.E. Mr. Thomas Lambert, Belgium's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York deposited his government's ratification instrument.



H.E. Mr. Thomas Lambert Minister Councillor, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium deposits his government's ratification instrument. Photo credit: UN Treaty Section

On 15 December, Ambassador Michel Tommo Monthe, Cameroon's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, signed the Convention, bringing the total number of signatories to 104, including 37 African nations.

Outcomes of the Cartagena Summit on a Mine Free World

Campaigners took advantage of the many States represented at the Cartagena Summit in Colombia and carried out numerous lobbying meetings on the Convention. CMC members lobbied for signature of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in high-level meetings (including with Cambodia, Jordan, and Sudan) and other government outreach (including with Ethiopia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Serbia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam). CMC urged swift ratification in high-level meetings with signatories Afghanistan, Australia, Canada and Uganda.

During the Summit, CMC staff Laura Cheeseman and Kimberly Brown met with 74 campaigners to discuss their campaign priorities, actions and ideas for a successful year of advocacy in 2010 which resulted in a 2010 Action Plan. The CMC Action Plan contains plans for working towards a successful First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) in Lao PDR in November 2010, including working to achieve more signatures and ratifications to the Convention as well as for early implementation;

ideas on how to mark key milestones such as entry into force day and launching a 100-day countdown to the 1MSP; campaigning plans, ideas and target countries in each region; key networks, tools and campaigning activities and a 2010 calendar laying out key dates and opportunities to promote the Convention.

A number of states reported on cluster munitions during the conference, including Albania, which announced that it was cluster-bomb free. At the side event on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Lao PDR gave a powerful speech on the human suffering caused by cluster munitions in Lao and gave an update on 1MSP, which is tentatively scheduled for November 2010. During the plenary, eleven states reaffirmed their commitment to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and gave updates on progress towards ratification. Cameroon announced that it would soon sign the treaty, and did so on 15 December at the United Nations in New York.

Check out photos courtesy of Mary Wareham:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/marywareham/sets/72157622881795488/>

Media Highlights of the Month

El Mundo (Spain), 1 December 2009

Mutilados Fútbol Club

<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2009/11/30/internacional/1259608863.html>

EFE, 2 December 2009

Photograph of Colombian Vice President Francisco Santos (from Quad Rugby match in Cartagena)

<http://ar.news.yahoo.com/foto/02122009/24/foto/photos-n-world-photo-6331819-photo-text-acitvidades-ii.html>

SR Radio Sweden, 3 December 2009

Ban on cluster bombs still not ratified

<http://www.sr.se/cgi-bin/international/nyhetssidor/artikel.asp?nyheter=1&programid=2054&Artikel=3281978>

The Independent (UK), 6 December 2009

The world is winning the landmine war

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/the-world-is-winning-the-landmine-war-1835050.html>

Thanh Nien (Vietnam), 7 December 2009

Boy with no face uses big heart to help UXO victims

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/education/?catid=4&newsid=54096>

Vistazo (Ecuador), 8 December 2009

Prohibición de municiones racimo, acto de humanidad

<http://www.vistazo.com/webpages/columnas/?id=8213>

DutchNews.nl, 8 December 2009

MPs back ban on cluster bomb investment

http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2009/12/mps_back_ban_on_cluster_bomb_i.php

Radio Netherlands Worldwide, 9 December 2009

Dutch investments in cluster bombs banned

<http://www.rnw.nl/nl/node/44519>

The Scotsman (UK), 9 December 2009

13m cluster bombs have already been destroyed, says minister <http://news.scotsman.com/politics/13m-cluster-bombs-have-already.5894432.jp>

ReliefWeb, 9 December 2009

Iraq: Cluster treaty approval should inspire neighbours to join

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-7YKQ6Y?OpenDocument>

MSNBC.com, 9 December 2009

Who did Obama beat out for the Nobel?

<http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2009/12/09/2146582.aspx>

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 10 December 2009

Georgia's Gori district successfully demined

http://www.rferl.org/content/Georgias_Gori_District_Successfully_Demined_/1900673.html

TVNZ (New Zealand), 11 December 2009

NZ bans cluster munitions

<http://tvnz.co.nz/politics-news/nz-bans-cluster-munitions-3251194>

Counterpunch, 11-13 December 2009

The Land Mines Obama Won't Touch

<http://www.counterpunch.org/moyers12112009.html>

The Daily Star (Lebanon), 15 December 2009

UN political leaders call for human rights advances in Lebanon

http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&catid=1&article_id=109781

United Press International (UPI), 18 December 2009

New Zealand is latest to ban cluster bombs

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2009/12/18/New-Zealand-is-latest-to-ban-cluster-bombs/UPI-59021261164244/

The Huffington Post, 21 December 2009

Lebanon's leftover subterranean scourge

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/patrick-galey/lebanons-leftover-subterr_b_399532.html

RTBF (Belgium), 23 December 2009

La Belgique ratifie la Convention sur les armes à sous-munitions

<http://www.rtf.be/info/economie/la-belgique-a-ratifie-a-lonu-la-convention-sur-les-armes-a-sous-munitions-172469>

Associated Press, 23 December 2009

Two countries ratify cluster bomb ban convention

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/12/23/two-countries-ratify-cluster-bomb-ban-convention.html>

Associated Press, 23 December 2009

New Zealand ratifies cluster bomb ban convention

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/wires.php?id=3345560-new-zealand-cluster-bombs-wellington-new-zealand-new-zealand>

Campaign and Country Updates

Canada: Participants from MAC's Youth Leader Forum held in Colombia during the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World (29 November-5 December) were invited by the President of the Cartagena Summit and the Vice President of Colombia to present a declaration from the youth in the closing session of the Summit. Mr. Gul Nabi from Afghanistan and Ms. Ndèye-Khoudia Ndiaye from France presented the declaration on behalf of the Forum to the over 1,000 government delegates and campaigners from around the world.



The delegates of MAC's 2009 Youth Leaders Forum in Cartagena, Colombia. Photo Credit: Mines Action Canada

Following their declaration, the Summit President presented the youth with a copy of the Cartagena Declaration signed by governments and asked the youth to hold them accountable for fulfilling the promises made over the next five years. To read the Youth Forum's report and watch a video of them delivering their declaration, visit: <http://www.minesactioncanada.org/index.cfm?fuse=learn.news-details&ID=394>

Nancy Ingram, Mines Action Canada:
nancy@minesactioncanada.org

Moldova: With funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian People's Aid is assisting the Moldovan government in the development of a pilot stockpile destruction project to ensure that cluster munitions are safely destroyed. Emphasis is also being placed on national ownership, capacity building and the ability to salvage all available value from the disposal. In a press statement, NPA has encouraged Moldova to be "included in the 30 world leaders that will ensure the Convention comes into force by rapid ratification of the Convention by the Government".

For the full story, visit <http://www.npaid.org/?module=Articles;action=Article;publicShow;ID=8840>
Lee Moroney, Norwegian People's Aid:
lpm_mobile@hotmail.com

New Zealand: On 10 December, the Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill had its second and final readings in the New Zealand parliament. Eight parliamentarians spoke over the course of the hour-long debate before the legislation was unanimously adopted. The legislation, which governs New Zealand's implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, was signed into law by Governor-General on 17 December paving the way for the deposit of New Zealand's ratification instrument on 22 December. The Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition (ANZCMC) held an event on 15 December to celebrate the new law and ratification that was attended by Hon. Georgina [Te Heuheu](#), New Zealand's Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, and other politicians, demining experts, and campaigners. The ANZCMC has prepared a critique of the legislation that is available on its website. See:

<http://www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz/2009/12/11/cluster-bomb-ban-law-passes/>
Mary Wareham, ANZCMC,
wareham@hrw.org

Serbia: Experienced activists including mine and cluster munition survivors launched "Assistance Advocacy Access Serbia" (PPPS: Podrska. Prava. Pristup – Srbija) in December 2009 to campaign for victim assistance in the country. The association's activities begin with a national needs assessment and the creation of the first database on survivors for the implementation of much-needed services and referrals. PPPS will advocate for Serbia's swift signature of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, fulfillment of Mine Ban Treaty obligations – particularly victim assistance – and the full enforcement of disability legislation and policy following Serbia's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009.

Jelena Vicentic, Assistance Advocacy Access Serbia:
assistance.advocacy.access@gmail.com

Syria: On 2 December, Dr Ghassan Shahrour of Syria received the International Star of Hope Award 2009 from the Centro Integral de Rehabilitación de Colombia (CIREC) and the Vice President's Office of Colombia, during the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty in Cartagena, Colombia. Ghassan, a long-time campaigner in the movements to ban antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions, paid special thanks to CIREC and the Vice President of Colombia and noted that the award recognised the contribution of many ICBL/CMC campaigners in achieving enabling environments for persons with disabilities.

Ghassan Shahrour, Arab Net for Research on LM & ERW:
Ghassan.dr@gmail.com

United Kingdom: On 8 December, the Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill had its second reading in the House of Lords. As in previous debates, this saw substantial well-informed engagement from a number of Peers from all Parties. In addition to discussing areas dealt with in the Bill, Parliamentarians also discussed the issue of foreign stockpiling of cluster munitions on UK territory as well as work being undertaken by the UK Government to promote the Convention internationally. The Government provided a concrete timeline for the removal of foreign stockpiles, stating that they would be removed from sites in the UK by 2010 and from all UK territories by 2013. On universalisation, the Government stated that it would continue to promote the CCM among Commonwealth countries and that it would liaise with civil society on this work.

Portia Stratton, Action on Armed Violence:
pstratton@landmineaction.org.uk

United Kingdom: The Royal Society of Medicine's new president Mr Nigel Trimmings MRCS LRCP FRCS invited Kate Moore MBE, an Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) board member, to give the presidential address to the Society's Orthopaedics Section in London on 1 December 2009.



Nigel Trimmings and Kate Moore at the Royal Society of Medicine in London dinner. Photo Credit: Kate Moore

The address, titled "The Road to Oslo and Beyond," included a screening of Chris Anderson's short film "Unacceptable Harm".

Kate covered the Oslo Process time frame from November 2006 through to the Convention's signing ceremony in Oslo and the current status of the Convention, including which states have signed and ratified. The aims of the

Orthopaedics Section are to "advance the study of orthopaedics and traumatic surgery". The very well-attended event was advertised as one of importance to all sections and levels of the RSM for its education potential for the prevention of needless human suffering.

Kate Moore, AOAV: kate@kate-george.co.uk

USA: The article *Breaking New Ground: The Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Evolution of International Humanitarian Law*, was written by Bonnie Docherty and published in Human Rights Quarterly in November. (While Bonnie works at Human Rights Watch, she wrote this publication in her personal capacity.) The article looks at the legal precedent set by the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which broke new legal ground on a number of fronts, in particular by strengthening the humanitarian obligations imposed by weapons treaties. This article examines the precedent the treaty sets in a variety

of areas, including victim assistance, user states' responsibility to clean up the ordnance they left behind, and the regulation of non-state armed groups. To request a copy of the article please contact: *Bonnie Docherty*, Human Rights Watch: docherb@hrw.org

International: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement adopted Resolution 12.1 named *Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and other Explosive Remnants of War: Reducing the effects of Weapons on Civilians* on 23-25 November in Nairobi, Kenya. Campaigners can use this document as a strategic way to engage with Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies at the country level. The document can be found in English, French, Arabic and Spanish under Item 12 using the following link:

http://www.rcstandcom.info/cod2009/council_pre_docs_2009.shtml

Kimberly Brown, CMC Staff:

Kimberly@stopclustermunitions.org

Take Action

Help to ensure that the 30th ratification happens in the month of January

So far, 104 governments have signed the Convention and 26 countries have ratified it. Which four countries will make it into the visionary group of 30 that bring the treaty into force? Make sure your government signs and ratifies the Convention on Cluster Munitions! Five countries have completed domestic ratification of the Convention and are now poised to deposit: Burkina Faso, Denmark, Ecuador, Montenegro, and Togo. Campaigners can help to make sure that these countries deposit their ratification instruments in the coming weeks, thus triggering entry into force.

Check out the resources section of the CMC website for template letters, action cards, posters and other campaigning tools: <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/campaign-resources/> Laura Cheeseman: CMC Staff: Laura@stopclustermunitions.org

Regional opportunities to promote the CCM:

A number of upcoming meetings provide opportunities to promote the CCM. Campaigners should approach supportive governments within these regions so that the CCM can be raised at the following events:

- 17-22 Jan: Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), Singapore
- 26 Jan-3 Feb: African Union Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 14-16 Feb: NATO Parliamentary Assembly joint committee meeting, Brussels, Belgium

Upcoming Events

March 2010

1 11th anniversary of the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty

26-28 (TBC)

Regional meeting on Convention on Cluster Munitions in Pretoria, South Africa/ UN Mine Action Programme Directors meeting

June 2010

(TBC) Global Preparatory Meeting on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Viña del Mar, Chile