
Convention on Cluster Munitions

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English only

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Any other business

Vientiane Youth Declaration¹

We, the 42 members of the Vientiane Youth Leaders' Forum, gather here today to proclaim in solidarity that our future must be one in which cluster munitions are no longer a reality. Some participants in our group, our friends, have been severely injured by cluster munitions. Learning about their stories and how cluster munitions have permanently altered their lives, we will work with passion and diligence until our world is rid of cluster bombs and the needs of all cluster bomb victims are met.

With enthusiasm we recognize the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which has proven the immense power of collective action. Because youth are disproportionately affected by cluster munitions, we also recognize the importance of the Convention's definition of victims, which includes not only those injured by cluster munitions, but also their families and communities impacted by these destructive weapons.

Progress has been made, but we all agree that stronger action is needed. To further advance that which has been achieved, we call on those states that have not acceded to the convention to do so, and for State Parties to facilitate universal adherence to the Convention. We also call on all states to secure the rights of those injured by cluster munitions and anyone with a disability who may still suffer from discrimination, as well as increase capacity for UXO clearance.

We, the youth, will continue to support implementation by assisting governments in cluster munitions education, victim assistance and mobilizing resources. We will also serve as a concerned group of young people observing and ensuring that all countries completely ban cluster munitions. It is time to end the injustice and indiscriminate suffering caused by these weapons. We will not stand for anything less.

Delivered by Youth Leaders Forum Delegates

¹ Issued in the language of submission without any editing, as received by the Secretariat