

2008-2018 • HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS



On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and 15th anniversary of the Cluster Muniton Coalition, members and friends of the CMC share their views on the successes and challenges of the ban on cluster munitions. Happy Anniversaries!



It is quite remarkable to reflect on the progress made over the past ten years since we were in Dublin at the treaty negotiations in 2008, and on the whirlwind treaty process which was tough and exhilarating in equal measures, and of course led to the successful conclusion and adoption of the treaty - with much celebration all round! So much has been achieved in a short time: many countries have joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions, destroying their stocks of the weapon, helping affected communities eliminate the threat, and upholding the rights of survivors. There is of course more that needs to be done, but it is good to reflect and celebrate the achievement that it is, and the community of organisations and states that drives forward this work.

I feel privileged to have been part of the Cluster Munition Coalition during the treaty negotiations, working with and learning from so many inspiring people from across the world. As a community, we continue to learn from and inspire each other, and we bring knowledge, energy and determination into several new campaigns to better protect people from weapons. Whilst the current humanitarian and political climate can feel pretty bleak at the moment, I still feel motivated that collectively we can make some positive changes in this world.



I feel like we went through hell to get the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It was extremely difficult to persuade countries that possessed great amounts of that kind of weapon, especially NATO countries, not to use them. However, because these weapons cause such humanitarian catastrophe, particularly with civilians, we appealed to these humanitarian reasons and they were persuaded to join the Convention.

I am proud, most of all, of the CMC. As a coalition, they made an enormous contribution to convincing and attracting a big number of countries to get on board, checking that they destroyed stockpiles

of cluster munitions, and ensuring countries that signed this Convention do not use cluster munitions any more. I am grateful to Germany and others, which with great effort, stopped the banks that were investing in the production of cluster munitions. Also, I am grateful to all countries that joined the Convention and that follow and respect it.

The key success is the stigmatization of any use of these indiscriminate weapons and making principles of international humanitarian law stronger. Besides the successes, we still have a lot of work to do to get key big players and their satellites to join. I believe we will manage to do that in the near future.



Happy 15th Anniversary of the Cluster Munition Coalition! Thank you very much to the CMC for all the great work that you have been doing to ban all harmful weapons to prevent further casualties.

Thanks for all the support that I was given and thanks for giving me the opportunity to join the CMC team as a campaigner to ban landmines and cluster munitions. I have learned a lot from many great campaigners from around the world. Now, I am very confident in taking part in campaigning and advocacy work in Laos, I have met so many high-level members of government from many countries and I have raised issues about the mine

and cluster munition problem, victim assistance, and asked them to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and Mine Ban Treaty.

Nowadays, there are lots of countries that acceded to these conventions and many victims have been supported but, on the other hand, there are some countries that are still not considering joining. Some countries are still using these weapons and there are still way too many casualties.

CMC please keep up your great work to make the world free of these harmful weapons. I know it is a very hard work and takes time to do it, but with support and togetherness we can do it.



Congratulations to the CCM on this important milestone! I am honoured to have the opportunity to work with so many people—from States Parties, the Cluster Munition Coalition and many others—who share a passion for achieving a world without cluster munitions. The CCM is a treaty close to New Zealand's heart—moved by the horrific harm caused to civilians by these inhumane weapons, New Zealand was one of the core group of countries that first pushed for their prohibition. As our then-Minister for Disarmament and Arms

Control Hon. Phil Goff said in February 2008 at the opening of the fourth conference of the Oslo Process in Wellington, "It is now time to put the fence at the top of the cliff, and not simply be the ambulance at the bottom." As a proud member of the CCM family, and in New Zealand's ongoing role as national implementation measures coordinator, we will continue to champion this important humanitarian treaty and ensure the fence is as strong as possible!



Fifteen years already! I feel like we are still fighting to have a ban on cluster munitions. This is maybe because violations of the ban are still taking place, especially in our part of the world. Children, farmers, women are still being killed or maimed. The legacy continues.

I remember that it in 2006, Lebanon was heavily bombarded with cluster bombs. Experts from Norway and elsewhere visited and saw the disaster we lived in due to the remnants. The Cluster

Munition Coalition moved the entire world and lobbied Governments and decision-makers to take action and ban cluster bombs. CMC campaigners are warriors for peace. They did a great job over the years to push countries to enforce the CCM.

I feel privileged to belong to the CMC. Congratulations to you and never stop dreaming of a world free from cluster munitions, a world where we all can live in peace, feeling secure and protected.

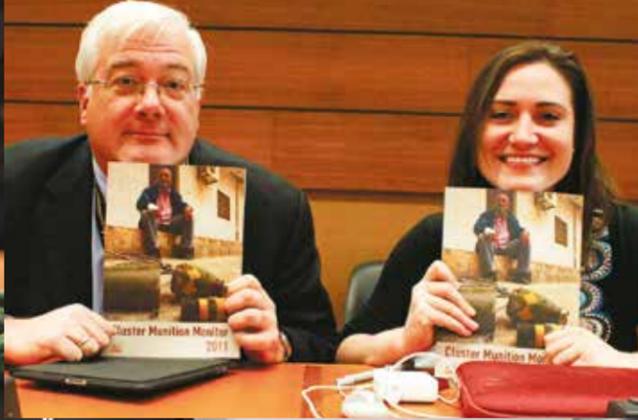


My experience with the Cluster Munition Coalition started early in 2007 with the start of the Oslo Process. As a Law Professor and a human rights campaigner, the process and the treaty were momentums to strengthen International Law and International Human Rights Law with the links with International Humanitarian Law.

The work with universalization of such norms still remains as challenge to protect civilians from the effects of armed conflict, especially from weapons that violate the international law as cluster munitions.

Besides making also good friends and having a better understanding of the world and its international relations, I understood why the International Campaign to Ban Landmines was recognized as precursor of a new era.

Nowadays, after these two successful campaigns, it is easy to understand how and why ordinary people have an extraordinary impact in changing the rule of war. The responsibility to protect is each day more a responsibility to protect the civilians and the world, not the weapons and the realistic game of power of States. Since then we banned more and more weapons. The most recent Treaty banning Nuclear Weapons shows that together civil society can put issues on the international agenda and promote change.



Michel Uiterwaal Programme Manager Financial sector, Weapons and Conflict, PAX



Dutch peace movement PAX is a co-founder of the Cluster Munition Coalition and a strong supporter of its work. While the Convention on Cluster Munitions was still being negotiated, it became clear that preventing money from being invested in private producers of cluster bombs was an interesting angle towards stopping the production of these weapons.

Together with FairFin, PAX started investigating which financial institutions invest money in cluster munitions producers AND which financial institutions and states have policies or laws in place to prevent these investments. It was the start of the Stop Explosive Investments campaign.

From the first Worldwide Investment in Cluster Munition report in 2009 to date, the campaign engages with financial institutions, governments and citizens worldwide with this one simple question:

“Are you funding Cluster Bombs?”

At PAX, we believe the campaign helped contributing to the global stigma against cluster bombs, even beyond the states that are party to the CCM. Because all known cluster munition producers are based outside CCM State Parties, financial sector action to stop producing these horrendous weapons is broadening the reach of the Convention. All campaigners that are active in the Stop Explosive Investment campaign have contributed to the success of it. The campaign has seen very concrete results over the years, not the least being that several companies that were listed as producers in our reports stopped producing cluster bombs, reportedly partly due to pressure from the financial sector. A significant step in the right direction - let's together move to the total eradication of cluster bombs!

Sachi Claringbould Permanent Mission of the Netherlands



Happy anniversaries, CMC and the CCM! While a relatively young Convention, a very important one in today's world, as we need a strong norm against the use of cluster munitions. We need to continue advocating for that norm, as the CMC and many others are doing passionately, in the hope that we reduce the number of victims of this inhumane weapon. In the meantime, we need to clear the remnants and assist those countries that are clearing in accordance with their legal obligations.

It was an honour to have contributed in a small way to the implementation of States Parties' clearance obligations as Clearance and Risk Reduction Education Coordinator for two years, together with colleagues from Norway and Lao PDR. In this year of anniversaries, let us celebrate the successes and remember the victims. Let us step up our collective efforts with equal vigour in order to achieve a cluster munition free world by 2030!

Alfredo Ferrariz Lubang National Coordinator, Philippines Campaign to Ban Landmines



Witnessing the world turn its back against indiscriminate weapons that kill, maim and cause suffering to civilians from affected countries was a great start towards building a world where peace could be possible. After we worked towards eradicating landmines, we kept moving forward and banned cluster bombs. Being part of the Cluster Munition Coalition - 15 years onwards - our collective efforts and work must continue to ensure that the world is rid of these weapons and we find no more victims of cluster bombs.

Members of the CMC working from the ground, from affected areas, in the capitals and at the UN and other platforms have greatly contributed to the success of the Convention on Cluster Munitions' universalization and implementation. As we celebrate the 15 years of the CMC and the 10th anniversary of the CCM, I look forward to more stories of success and zero victims from the affected areas. May the story of banning cluster bombs inspire more states to care and become parties to the convention. May the story of this success, of people coming together to end suffering and assisting victims and survivors, inspire more people to continue the work towards peace.

Alexandra Hiniker Formerly PAX Representative to the United Nations



What I treasure most about the Cluster Munition Coalition is the joy that comes from working with incredible people from around the world towards a noble objective. From campaigning in Cambodia, to partnering with governments, UN agencies, and the ICRC in Laos and Lebanon, and then

advocating at the UN in New York, I saw that every single campaigner brings unique expertise. We all have a part to play in ridding the world of this horrific weapon, and thanks to the Cluster Munition Coalition, I am confident we will continue working together until we do so.

Vidya Abhayagunawardena Coordinator, Sri Lanka Campaign to Ban Landmines



We, the Sri Lanka Campaign to Ban Landmines (SLCBL), are proud say that we were able to achieve our campaign's first mission, which was Sri Lanka's accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and Mine Ban Treaty, and ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities, in three years in a row.

Sri Lanka acceded to the CCM this year on 1st March and became the 103rd State Party to the Convention. This year the CCM celebrates its 10th Anniversary and Cluster Munition Coalition celebrates its 15th Anniversary.

On 13 December 2017, Sri Lanka acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty and became the 163rd State Party. That same year the treaty celebrated its 20th Anniversary. Sri Lanka was able to give birthday presents to both Conventions!

On 8 February 2016, Sri Lanka ratified the CRPD. The second phase of SLCBL will be closely monitored and supportive of the implementation of the CRPD, MBT, and CCM in Sri Lanka and we encourage Sri Lanka to become a strong universalization ambassador for these three conventions in the South Asian region and beyond. Our vision is to be mine-free, fulfilling all requirements of the disabled community, and in future a peaceful and prosperous Sri Lanka!

Sheila Mweemba Director, Convention on Cluster Munitions Implementation Support Unit



Fifteen years already! Congratulations to the CMC for being one of the trailblazers in global aspirations to have a legally binding instrument on the prohibition of an inhumane category of weapons that causes unacceptable harm to civilians. I still vividly remember the captivating efforts of the Oslo Process and the collaborative efforts that led to the Convention by the end of 2008. This is a very exciting time in the Convention's timeline because 2018 is also a significant year for the CCM - 30 May 2018 marked ten years since its adoption in Dublin and 3 December 2018 marks ten years of its signature in Oslo and additionally

signals the halfway mark in the implementation of the five-year Dubrovnik Action Plan. In eight short years since its entry into force in August 2010, the CCM has been an overwhelming success with 34 of 40 States Parties having complied with their stockpile destruction obligations ahead of deadlines. Together these States have destroyed over 95% of all cluster munition stockpiles leaving only six States still to comply. The CCM community continues to strive to further implement and fully universalize the Convention and to strengthen the norm against the use of cluster munitions.





As a member of the global Cluster Munition Coalition, the *West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)* – The Gambia has been raising awareness on the dangers of cluster munitions as well as advocating for the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions by the government, since the Gambia signed the Convention on 3 December 2008.

Whilst the Gambia does not produce nor stockpile cluster munitions, it is surrounded by conflict-prone regions, therefore, the Convention is of utmost importance and necessity, as cluster munitions cause major humanitarian problems and risks to civilians during and after conflict.

Although the ratification process had stalled over the years, progress was achieved in 2017 as the government of the Gambia made a public declaration

during the 7MSP in Geneva in September 2017 that it will ratify the Convention before the 8MSP in September 2018. This promise was reinforced by Cabinet's approval of a Cabinet Paper submitted by the Ministry of Defence in November 2017. In September 2018, the Gambia said that it would submit an instrument of ratification imminently.

It is our fervent hope that as we commemorate 10 years of the Cluster Munition Coalition, the Gambia will ratify the Convention soon and serve as a model for other countries who may not see the need to ratify it simply because they are not directly affected.

Congratulations CMC and cheers to a world free of cluster bombs! Together we can!!



Congratulations Cluster Munition Coalition on your 15th Anniversary! You inspire us with your tireless work to eradicate cluster munitions, prevent further casualties and put an end to the suffering caused by these weapons.

Many thousands of civilians have been tragically killed and injured by coming into contact with cluster munitions. The adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions 10 years ago triggered the commitment of the entire international community to protect civilians during and after conflicts from the indiscriminate effects of this inhumane type of weapons, a clear indication that the inherent value of human dignity outweighs any military advantages that these weapons may have.

Since then, we have witnessed significant steps towards our common aim to end the human suffering cluster munitions pose to civilians, to provide cooperation and to assist the survivors. There is an increased awareness on the existing link between international humanitarian law and human rights. Despite this progress, challenges remain to ensure the universalization of the Convention and its effective implementation.

We remain determined to continue our partnership with States, CMC and other stakeholders in order to promote its universalization and achieve the goals of the CCM. Let's fulfil our task together!



Quand nous avons entamé il y a une dizaine d'années la lutte contre les bombes à sous-munitions à travers la Coalition mondiale contre les bombes à sous-munitions (CMC), d'aucun ont pensé que c'était un combat perdu d'avance. Surtout citoyen d'un pays qui ne produit ni n'utilise cette arme. Notre engagement résidait dans notre détermination et notre foi de faire de ce monde un espace de paix où il ferait bon vivre.

C'est pour cela que l'universalisation du traité doit être notre combat de tous les jours. Pour nous Africains, l'occasion nous est donnée de réaffirmer notre refus de ces armes qui déciment l'humanité tout entière.

Nous adressons toute notre reconnaissance aux Etats africains qui ont toujours supporté le processus et qui ont ratifié le traité d'interdiction des bombes à sous-munitions. Afin de rendre l'universalisation effective, nous lançons un appel aux 12 pays africains qui sont demeurés jusqu'ici signataires à rejoindre le traité le plus rapidement possible. Quant aux 11 Etats africains non signataires, nous leurs disons qu'ils sont en retard de 10 ans mais ils peuvent toujours rejoindre le bateau afin de faire du 10^{ème} anniversaire une occasion de déclarer l'Afrique libre des armes à sous-munitions.



Working in a country with no record of cluster munitions use in its territory poses its own set of challenges. Ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions sits at the bottom of government's priority, if it is there at all. I remember visiting government ministries in 2016 asking about the ratification status only to find that there has not been any progress since 2010. Since my country is not affected by cluster munitions, I was told that ratification is not pressing at the moment. This thinking needs to change. Cluster munitions may not affect some countries at all, but the universalization of the Convention will help

many victims and potentially prevent future uses. In this regard, ratification by countries not affected by cluster munitions is a show of solidarity for countries that are, and it can be done with little to no cost at all.

Cluster munitions are inhuman weapons and should no longer be in the armory of any countries in the world. The Convention is an instrument for eliminating this type of weapon. In light of recent alleged use of cluster munitions, the universalization of the Convention becomes more relevant and urgent than ever.



Working on the Convention on Cluster Munitions was my first job assignment in Handicap International in Bosnia and Herzegovina, back in 2007. I believe that professionally I grew up with this convention and I was so lucky to witness the process from its birth when the text was adopted in 2008 and later entered into force in 2010. Strong and legally binding provisions for victim assistance based on a non-discriminatory approach was something that we were all very proud of.

Parallel to the international processes, I was working on the national level together with my

colleagues to lead Bosnia and Herzegovina to sign and later ratify the convention. Bosnian context was quite difficult being a producer and affected country with significant stockpiles and victims of these weapons. I will remember for the rest of my life when we got a call from the Council of Minister's office with a very short sentence: "Our country is on board!" Long bilateral meetings, campaigning actions on the streets, numerous media interviews, never-ending brainstorming sessions and internal strategies, conferences, workshops and long working hours were worth all the effort!



It gives me great delight to be a part of the Coordination Committee of a convention that is doing extremely well in ensuring that the world becomes a safer place, free from the contamination of cluster munitions. Most gratifying for me has been seeing the tremendous work that the ISU has done and the synergy among the Coordinators of the thematic working groups that has yielded brilliant results this year. For instance, Botswana fulfilling of its obligations by completing the

destruction of all its cluster munitions stockpiles more than a year ahead of the Convention deadline, as well as the ratification of the CCM by Namibia in September 2018, making that country the newest member of the Convention, are but some of the achievements. These developments have given me the impetus to embark on, as a matter of priority, a campaign to encourage other states to ratify the Convention



Since its entry into force, the Convention on Cluster Munitions has contributed to the destruction of nearly 1 and a half million cluster munitions and over 170 million submunitions. Previously contaminated land has been cleared and put to productive use. States Parties have implemented their commitment outlined in the Convention to strengthen assistance to victims of cluster

munitions, their families and affected communities. Furthering the work to implement this important Convention fully aligns with the aspirations and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I encourage all governments to become parties to the Convention without delay and to work jointly towards its effective implementation.

The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) is an international coalition of nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) working to eradicate cluster munitions, prevent further casualties from these weapons and put an end for all time to the suffering they cause.

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