



## 12 REASONS WHY STATES SHOULD JOIN THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS WITHOUT DELAY

This year, 2020, is the **Twelfth** anniversary since the Convention on Cluster Munitions became international law, and the occasion of the Second Review Conference taking place in Switzerland.

There are countless number of compelling reasons why 121 countries have joined the Convention. In recognition of the Convention's **12-year** anniversary, we are putting forth **12 reasons** why States should join the Convention without delay.

1. **Cluster munitions have been banned for a reason** - These weapons have wide area effects and kill indiscriminately - they do not distinguish between civilians and combatants. The use of these weapons by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances is unacceptable and illegal.
2. **Promotes international humanitarian law** and emphasizes states' efforts and commitment to rule of law, disarmament, peace, and the protection of civilians.
3. **Join the international community** of states, UN agencies and civil society organizations that have come together to ensure these banned weapons are never used again and to address their impact. Over 120 **States from every region of the world have already joined** the Convention, including states that once stockpiled, produced and/or used cluster munitions.
4. **The humanitarian consequences of cluster munition use far outweigh any perceived military benefit** - They have limited military utility and are poor defensive weapons. Most egregiously, cluster munitions leave a deadly trail of explosive submunitions that maims and kills for years following an attack, and that can bring harm to a state's own population.
5. **Nobody wants to be associated with this horrible weapon** - Only non-state armed groups and a small number of rogue states have recently used cluster munitions, and this use has been met with immediate and widespread condemnation.
6. **Prevent future suffering and support global stability** - Joining the CCM is an investment in human security for individual states, and the world, in keeping with the UN Secretary General's call for a global ceasefire.
7. **Champion human rights by addressing the horrible legacy of cluster munitions use** - Cluster bombs leave explosive remnants that lie in wait for girls, boys, women and men that find them years after the weapon is deployed. This lethal contamination hinders community livelihoods, development and the enjoyment of human rights for years and decades after use.
8. States Parties to the CCM are able to **access international cooperation and assistance** - Joining the treaty is an opportunity for affected states to get support for work that in many cases they are already undertaking.
9. **Convention on Cluster Munitions implementation supports sustainable economic growth** - While the global economy is threatened with the deepest recession in generations, CCM implementation allows for clearance and return



to productivity, of vast areas of land, empowering impacted communities and allowing them to (re) gain economic independence.

10. **Solidarity with affected countries** - Joining the Convention is a clear demonstration of support for cluster munitions victims and affected communities and their right to support and assistance.
11. **Contribute to achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals** - Implementation of the CCM contributes to several of the SDG targets and the overall goal of leaving no one behind.
12. Each ratification or accession to the CCM, by any country regardless of size, sends a **powerful message to the international community, strengthening the global ban and the protection of civilians.**