
Convention on Cluster Munitions

11 November 2010

English only

First Meeting of States Parties

Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

9–12 November 2010

Item 17 of the agenda

Any other business

Survivors' declaration¹

We, the cluster munition and landmine survivors from around the world are participating in this vital First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) to inform the delegates about our expectations and to remind you of our commitment to making the goals of this treaty a reality.

The CCM is a groundbreaking instrument of international law. It recognizes that assistance to victims is not only wishful thinking. Rather, it is an unequivocal legal obligation. It is now time to go from speeches and expressions of good will to action on the ground in places where it makes a real difference.

It is with that in mind that we call on all States Parties to the CCM to:

1. Implement the Vientiane Action Plan and the actions on victim assistance within specified timeframes.
2. Immediately mobilize adequate resources and translate your commitments into real changes in the lives of survivors.
3. Listen to girls, boys, women and men survivors and tailor victim assistance priorities according their needs and demands.
4. Ensure that support services reach rural areas, and support local income generation programs, which result in concrete improvements in the lives of survivors.
5. Support states' plans of action for victim assistance, as well as organizations of survivors and persons with disabilities, and hold all of them accountable for showing that they implemented the plans.
6. Clear the land of this hazardous litter, so it ceases to victimize.
7. Comply with the Convention. Signing and ratifying the CCM was an act of honoring the survivors, but it cannot stop there. Enforce what you have committed to, and put pressure on non-signatories to join the treaty as well.

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

8. Accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as a human rights framework and ensure

(a) there is no discrimination against cluster munitions victims or other persons with disabilities.

(b) social and economic inclusion and equality.

We commit to:

1 Share the truth about the experience of survivors, and the horrors of cluster bomb victimization.

2 Fight for rapid and full implementation of the Convention's victim assistance obligations.

3 Actively engage in advocating for governments to join the Convention and to support victim assistance efforts.

4 Work with our governments and all willing partners to search for better solutions and bring about positive change in the lives of survivors and our communities.

5 Foster positive change and contribute to the socio-economic development of our families and communities.

We look forward to working with all of you and to your reporting next year on tangible progress in achieving the aims of the Convention and the Vientiane Action Plan.
