

*Oslo Signing Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
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*Final remarks by United Nations Development Programme*

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is a stunning example of how tangible results can be achieved by an inclusive, constructive and creative partnership to address threats to human security and development. The efforts of the broad-based coalition of States, international organizations and civil society has brought about a new international standard that will enhance the protection of civilians, strengthen human rights and improve prospects for development. This partnership will now need to be further strengthened and sustained if the implementation of the Convention is to deliver as intended and live up to the expectations of those already affected.

We feel privileged to have been involved in the Oslo process from the beginning. As a development organization, we are particularly happy for the active engagement of developing countries in this process. More than half of the signatories are developing or affected states, clearly demonstrating the strong resonance the call for a prohibition of cluster munitions has had among countries that struggle with development challenges and, through preventive action, want to protect hard-won development gains.

It is our hope and belief that the partnership developed through this process, which has demonstrated and reinforced the value of disarmament as humanitarian action, can be fostered and expanded to address other global and immediate threats. Let us not forget; some 740,000 people die each year from armed violence – these are victims of cluster munitions but also landmines, IEDs (improvised explosive devices) as well as small arms and light weapons. In addition there are hundreds of thousands of survivors of various forms of violence that may require physical and psychosocial assistance to lead their lives. Let us maintain this broader humanitarian partnership to achieve measurable reductions in the violence caused by conventional weaponry, something that affects us all.

The promotion of peace and security and the achievement of sustainable development goals are commitments by governments and world leaders. But as we have discovered, and proven this week, it is an individual responsibility, and by the joint action of individuals addressing a common threat, that we reach comprehensive solutions. As mentioned by Thomas Nash from the CMC yesterday, the success has come from so many invaluable, individual contributions adding up to far more than the sum of the parts.

Human rights, human security and human development are collective responsibilities. Let us be forward looking and build on the hope that this process has generated ..... Hope that the protection of the rights of all individuals can be enhanced through international action.

I would like to thank Norway in particular and also the core group of states, for their vision, courage and determination in initiating the process and guiding us to this remarkable achievement. As the UN Secretary-General and colleagues from sister agencies have indicated, we stand ready to support Member States in implementing this new Treaty and work with you in overcoming our common threats to peace, human security and development.