

Declaration of the Wellington Conference on Cluster Munitions

States met in Wellington from February 18 to 22, 2008, to pursue an enduring solution to the grave humanitarian consequences caused by the use of cluster munitions. They are convinced that this solution must include the conclusion in 2008 of a legally binding international instrument prohibiting cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

In that spirit they affirm that the essential elements of such an instrument should include:

- A prohibition on the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians,
- A framework for cooperation and assistance that ensures adequate provision of care and rehabilitation to survivors and their communities, clearance of contaminated areas, risk education, and destruction of stockpiles.

The following States:

encouraged by the work of the Wellington Conference, and previous Conferences in Vienna, Lima and Oslo;

encouraged further by numerous national and regional initiatives, including meetings in Brussels, Belgrade and San José, and measures taken to address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions;

encouraged by the active support given to this subject by the United Nations, and in other fora;

encouraged, finally, by the active support of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Cluster Munition Coalition and numerous other Non-Governmental Organisations;

welcome the convening of a Diplomatic Conference by the Government of Ireland in Dublin on 19 May 2008 to negotiate and adopt a legally binding instrument prohibiting cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians;

also welcome the important work done by participants engaged in the cluster munitions process on the text of a draft Cluster Munitions Convention, dated 21 January 2008, which contains the essential elements identified above and decide to forward it as the basic proposal for consideration at the Dublin Diplomatic Conference, together with other relevant proposals including those contained in the compendium attached to this Declaration and those which may be put forward there;

affirm their objective of concluding the negotiation of such an instrument prohibiting cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians in Dublin in May 2008;

invite all other States to join them in their efforts towards concluding such an instrument.

**List of countries subscribing to the
Declaration of the Wellington Conference on Cluster Munitions**

Albania	Mali
Algeria	Malta
Angola	Marshall Islands
Argentina	Mauritania
Australia	Mexico
Austria	Moldova
Bahrain	Montenegro
Belgium	Morocco
Belize	Mozambique
Benin	Nepal
Brunei Darussalam	The Netherlands
Cambodia	New Zealand
Canada	Nigeria
Chile	Niue
Cook Islands	Norway
Costa Rica	Palau
Croatia	Papua New Guinea
Czech Republic	Paraguay
Democratic Republic of Congo	Peru
Denmark	Philippines
Dominican Republic	Portugal
Ecuador	Samoa
Finland	Senegal
France	Sierra Leone
Germany	Slovakia
Ghana	Slovenia
Guatemala	South Africa
Holy See	Spain
Honduras	Sudan
Hungary	Sweden
Iceland (advised by fax)	Switzerland
Indonesia	Uganda
Ireland	United Kingdom
Italy	Uruguay
Japan	Vanuatu
Kenya	Zambia
Kuwait	
Kyrgyzstan	
Laos	
Lebanon	
Lithuania	
Luxembourg	
Macedonia	
Madagascar	
Malawi	
Malaysia	