

## ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

### Cluster Munitions

Sponsored by Mexico and New Zealand

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC  
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM,

**Noting** the use of cluster munitions within areas of concentrated civilian populations with disproportionate loss of civilian life and damage to civilian objects;

**Noting** the unacceptable risks to humanitarian operations and economic recovery posed by unexploded cluster munitions in post-conflict situations;

**Condemning** the serious consequences for human rights and socio-economic development that the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions has for people and communities all over the world;

**Noting** that the number of countries that produce and stockpile cluster weapons has increased;

**Noting** the potential for increases in proliferation, retention or use of outmoded stocks;

**Recognizing** the commitment of the APPF parliaments towards the Protocol V on the Explosive Remnants of War of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons of the United Nations (CCW) and receiving with delight the coming into force in November of 2006;

**Having** regard to the statement of 4 April 2007 by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon calling on the international community to address the horrendous humanitarian effects of cluster bombs;

**Noting** the appeal made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding cluster munitions when he called on member states to deal immediately with the horrendous effects of cluster munitions and to conclude a legally binding instrument of humanitarian law that prohibits the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions; requires the destruction of current stockpiles; and provides for clearance, risk mitigation, victim assistance, co-operation, compliance and transparency measures;

**Receiving** with great pleasure the establishment of the “Cluster Munition Coalition”, an international civil organization with the objective of preventing and reducing the impact of these weapons on civil populations;

**Noting** the need to strike a balance between military and humanitarian considerations in addressing the issue of cluster munitions;

**Noting** the Oslo Declaration, which aims to conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument that will prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions, and establish a framework for cooperation and assistance to address the effects of these weapons;

**Noting** that a major cluster munitions conference is to be hosted by New Zealand in Wellington from 18-22 February 2008, as part of the Oslo process;

**Noting** the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts by the High Contracting Parties to the CCW to negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, the first session of which was held from 14 to 18 January 2008;

**RESOLVES TO:**

1. **Encourage** parliamentarians to participate in international efforts to address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, which include the establishment of high protection standards for civil populations;
2. **Encourage** all APPF members to support the two multilateral fora on cluster munitions: the Oslo process, initiated in Norway 22-23 February 2007 to negotiate a new, international, legally-binding instrument on cluster munitions by the end of 2008; and the CCW, which aims to address urgently the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations;
3. **Recommend** all member states make additional efforts in order to reduce the deployment, as far as possible, of these weapons;
4. **Encourage** parliaments to pass legislation to prohibit assistance to third parties or countries in the use, production, and transfer or stockpile of cluster munitions;
5. **Insist** on the obligation of governments to identify and fence off the worst contaminated areas to avoid damage to civil populations;
6. **Encourage** parliamentarians to promote the prevention, within the framework of international humanitarian law, of the indiscriminate use of these weapons;
7. **Promote**, through regional and multilateral means, the highest level of cooperation and transparency in approaching the humanitarian challenges posed by cluster munitions;
8. **To support and participate in** international efforts of education and training about the risks involved in the removal of unexploded weapons and the cleaning up of contaminated zones;
9. **Call upon** all member states to provide health and rehabilitation programmes to victims of cluster munitions. This includes emergency assistance and continuous medical care; physical rehabilitation; psychological support; social

and economic rehabilitation; and legal support;

10. **Encourage** the APPF Parliaments to guarantee the social and economic integration of all victims of cluster munitions as well as their families and communities.