



CMC key messages for entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

1. Campaigners are **celebrating all around the world** today by 'beating the drum to ban cluster bombs'. We are celebrating because cluster bombs are banned forever from this day and we know this Convention will make a real difference to people's lives.
2. This is the **most significant piece of International Humanitarian Law since the landmine ban** over a decade ago. Governments now have an **obligation to assist victims** and the **clock starts ticking on the deadlines** to clear cluster bomb-contaminated land in 10 years and destroy all stockpiles of the weapons in eight.
3. When the CMC was founded in 2003 people said that banning cluster bombs was impossible. Seven years later as we celebrate the entry into force of a new treaty that bans the weapon, it's a time to **celebrate the power of civil society and people around the world to effect extraordinary change**.
4. The next step after entry into force is for governments to come together at the First Meeting of States Parties to be hosted by Lao PDR from November 9-12. All countries should participate in this key meeting and **adopt an action plan that translates legal obligations into concrete actions for states to complete by the Second Meeting of States Parties, 1 year later**.
5. Countries that remain outside this Convention are missing out on the most significant advance in disarmament of the past decade. **If governments are serious about protecting civilians from the deadly effects of armed violence, they need to get on board and join the Convention on Cluster Munitions without delay**.