



[www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz](http://www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz)

*The Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition (ANZCMC) and Campaign Against Landmines (CALM) are governed jointly by a working group comprised of the following groups:*

Amnesty International Aotearoa NZ  
Caritas Aotearoa NZ  
Christian World Service  
Engineers for Social Responsibility NZ  
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War NZ  
National Council of Women NZ  
National Consultative Committee on Disarmament  
Oxfam NZ  
Peace Movement Aotearoa  
Soroptimist International NZ  
United Nations Association NZ  
United Nations Youth Association NZ  
UNICEF NZ  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa

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NEW ZEALAND  
[www.calm.org.nz](http://www.calm.org.nz)

13 December 2011

Hon. Murray McCully  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

RE: Disarmament and arms control portfolio

Dear Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the New Zealand Campaign Against Landmines (CALM) and the Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition (ANZCMC) to welcome your assumption of the disarmament and arms control portfolio in your role as New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Our civil society campaigns work in support of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions respectively. In New Zealand, we urge the government to continue its strong leadership role in ensuring full universalisation and effective implementation of these international treaties through political leadership, aid donations, diplomatic resources, in-kind contributions, and other measures.

On landmines, CALM urges the government to encourage the last remaining Pacific states outside the Mine Ban Treaty to join as soon as possible: Marshall Islands, FS Micronesia, and Tonga. We encourage the government to condemn any new use of antipersonnel landmines by any actor to ensure that the norm being established by the treaty takes firm hold. In 2012, we look forward to New Zealand's participation in the Mine Ban Treaty's 12th Meeting of States Parties to be held in Geneva on 3-7 December, as well as intersessional meetings on 21-24 May.

On cluster munitions, the ANZCMC urges the government to work for universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, specifically accession by these Pacific nations: Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. We encourage the government to continue to play an active role in the Convention's leadership. In 2012, we look forward to New Zealand's participation in the Convention's Third Meeting of States Parties to be held in Oslo, Norway on 3-7 September, as well as intersessional meetings on 16-19 April.

In the context of both treaties, we advocate for New Zealand to provide financial, technical and in-kind cooperation and assistance to ensure that all states parties can meet their obligations, especially on clearance and victim assistance, as well as in stockpile destruction, transparency reporting, and national legislation. We welcome the mine action funding commitments that New Zealand has continued to make, most recently for clearance efforts in Cambodia and the West Bank of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

We urge New Zealand to assist in tackling the long-standing threat posed by World War Two-era unexploded ordnance in the Pacific, as called for by the Communique of the 42nd Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting. We appreciate the rationale that has been provided for this year's withdrawal of the 16-year contribution of New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) military personnel to serve with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in New York, but respectfully request that this decision be reconsidered.

We are grateful for the National Party's response to our policy questions concerning New Zealand's disarmament work on conventional weapons, specifically landmines and cluster munitions. Our analysis of the responses is available here: <http://bit.ly/uJTVk4> We are glad that National views participation in treaty processes is an important way to ensure that New Zealand meets its commitments. New Zealand has held several important leadership positions within the context of the Mine Ban Treaty and it is currently serving as coordinator on national implementation measures for the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We urge New Zealand to continue its active support to the leadership work of these treaties.

Finally, we must express our deep disappointment that the portfolio formerly represented by a specific Minister of Disarmament and Arms Control has been incorporated into the overall responsibilities of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The ministerial portfolio on disarmament has enabled New Zealand to play a significant and unique leadership role in global disarmament initiatives and has encouraged popular support for disarmament objectives. We sincerely hope that the merging of disarmament responsibilities into the portfolio of the Minister of Foreign Affairs does not diminish New Zealand's active and constructive engagement in disarmament and arms control issues.

New Zealand's last Minister of Disarmament and Arms Control, Hon Georgina Te Heuheu excelled in fulfilling her responsibilities in this role. In her first year on the job she worked to ensure swift passage of legislation to enforce the ban on cluster bombs, which in turn paved the way for New Zealand's ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 22 December 2009. The minister's high-level participation in the Mine Ban Treaty's Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World in Colombia in November 2009 and First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Vientiane, Lao PDR in November 2010, coupled with her field visits to affected communities, were highpoints of both meetings. Over the past three years we have enjoyed fruitful collaboration with the minister, including through our combined outreach to the diplomatic corps, media, and public on both treaties.

We look forward to a similarly productive and positive relationship with you. We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss issues relating to the banning of landmines and cluster bombs.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Wareham, Coordinator  
New Zealand Campaign Against Landmines  
Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition

CC: Rt. Hon. John Key, Prime Minister  
David Shearer, Leader of the Opposition