

Re: Convention on Conventional Weapons

Fredrik Nilsson [fredrik.nilsson@foreign.ministry.se]

Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2011 10:59 PM**To:** Mary Wareham

Dear Mary Wareham,

Thank you for your mail.

In response to your concern of Sweden's support for protocol vi of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW).

As you are aware at this point, the protocol did not pass.

Sweden is a supporter of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) which we are, as you have noted, in the process of ratifying.

As such, Sweden advocates a complete abolishment of cluster munitions in all forms. Total abolishment would, of course, be the best solution.

However, the best solutions are not always possible. We realise that by having the biggest producers and users of cluster munitions outside the CCM, no reduction of the weapons will take place. There are no indications from the countries standing outside the CCM, of any willingness to sign and ratify CCM in the foreseeable future. The fact is that through a line of absolutism, we are currently not achieving any limitations on cluster munitions. Unfortunately, the CCM in its existing form, has reached a deadlock.

Sweden wants to reduce the cluster munitions of those countries that actually have cluster weapons, because that is where real effects can take place. Supporting protocol vi of the CCW is therefore not equivalent to lowering the bar set by the CCM; because there is no bar for most of these countries. The endeavour clause of the CCM also states that the protocol over time can develop stricter commitments. From a humanitarian perspective, constructive disarmament politics that produce results in reality are what is most important to Sweden.

Therefore, Sweden is supporting a solution that, in the long run, will contribute to significant reductions in production, transfers, and usage of cluster munitions. The CCW is not a convention that advocates cluster munitions. It is a convention that seeks to do what is possible, rather than pursuing a currently unattainable ideal.

Sincerely,

Fredrik Nilsson
Embassy of Sweden, Canberra.