

Fact Sheet

Pacific Support for the Cluster Munition Ban

In July and August 2006, Israel launched an estimated 4 million cluster submunitions on south [Lebanon](#) targeting many populated areas. Approximately one million of these explosive devices failed to detonate on impact and continue to threaten lives and render land inaccessible. Elsewhere cluster munitions used by the United States and other nations have killed and maimed civilians in thirty-one countries and territories including Afghanistan, Iraq, Laos, and Serbia.

The massive use of cluster bombs in Lebanon prompted an unprecedented multilateral response to prohibit this deadly weapon. In February 2007, the “Oslo Process,” a series of diplomatic meetings and actions, was launched to raise awareness and build support for the creation of a new international treaty to ban cluster munitions and assist those affected by the weapon. By the end of 2007, two Pacific states had joined in the Oslo Process to secure the cluster bomb ban treaty: Palau and Samoa.

In February 2008, nine Pacific states participated in a crucial Oslo Process conference held in [Wellington](#), New Zealand: Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. All except Tonga subscribed to the meeting’s Wellington Declaration affirming the objective to conclude the negotiation of an instrument prohibiting cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians in Dublin in May 2008.

Six Pacific states subsequently participated in the negotiations resulting in the successful adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 30 May 2008: Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu. This new agreement prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions and sets groundbreaking humanitarian obligations for victim assistance, clearance of contaminated land and destruction of stockpiles. It is widely viewed as the most significant humanitarian and disarmament treaty in more than a decade.

The new Convention will be opened for signature at a high-level ceremony in Oslo, Norway on 3 December 2008 (the international day for people with disabilities). The best way to respect the memory of those killed by this weapon in Lebanon and elsewhere is to stop cluster munitions from ever being used again. *Every government wishing to prevent future casualties from the horrors of cluster munitions should sign Convention on Cluster Munitions this December and ratify without delay.*

Take Action!

Prevent Civilian Casualties * Ban Cluster Munitions



Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu need to publicly confirm their intent to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, and Tonga participated in the Oslo Process, but it is not clear if they will sign the Convention. Kiribati, FS Micronesia, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu did not participate in the Oslo Process, but can still sign the Convention.

Please convince these governments to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions!