

UNA-UK Annual Conference 2008
28-30 March, Exeter University

Resolution on cluster munitions

UNA-UK welcomes the government's active involvement in the preparatory meetings in Oslo, Lima and Wellington which have established a wide consensus on the need for an international convention to ban the possession and use of cluster munitions.

UNA-UK welcomes NGOs' vigilance in bringing attention to this process and parliamentary monitoring of the failure rate of cluster submunitions to self-destruct, and urges its members to continue campaigning in support of a comprehensive treaty banning the use of such weapons.

UNA-UK considers that cluster munitions cause appalling harm to innocent civilians, as demonstrated most recently between Israel and Hezbollah in south Lebanon, and that their use is therefore militarily disproportionate.

UNA-UK therefore urges the government to ensure that at the forthcoming Dublin meeting in May 2008 the text of an international convention banning cluster munitions is completed and opened for signature later in the year.

UNA-UK expects that the government will sign and ratify such a convention with no distinctions or reservations between different categories of cluster munitions, all of which should be banned.