

**Auszüge aus dem Statement des Internationalen Roten Kreuzes
Streubombenkonferenz Oslo am 22.2.2007**

(...)

In addition to the concern about cluster munitions which fail to explode on impact, there are also serious concerns about the impact of many models even when they function as designed. Most cluster munitions are area weapons and have a devastating explosive impact over areas up to several thousand square meters. The accuracy of some models is highly dependent on wind, weather conditions and the reliability of complex delivery systems. For the ICRC, these issues raise serious questions as to whether such weapons can be used in populated areas in accordance with fundamental rules of international humanitarian law including the rule of proportionality and the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks. Recent reports also indicate that armed non-State actors have begun to have access to these weapons. The implications of the continued proliferation of these weapons to more and more actors should be quite sobering to anyone concerned with protecting civilians from their horrific consequences.

The 2003 Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War can play an important role in protecting civilians from unexploded and abandoned ordnance. But it is not, in itself, adequate to address the specific problems and challenges posed by cluster munitions. The Protocol does not contain legally-binding measures to prevent explosive ordnance, including cluster munitions, from becoming explosive remnants of war. The Protocol also does not address the high risk of indiscriminate effects from a cluster munitions attack when the submunitions do detonate as intended, particularly if the attack is in a populated area.

(...)

In our view it is essential that this meeting focus on what this group of States, which has recognized the need for urgent action and for new international norms, can do together to achieve effective results. It should avoid divisive debates about the forum in which those results could best be achieved. It is important to take actions which will further engage other States and, in particular, those which produce, stockpile, use and are affected by cluster munitions. But a decision as to where effective results can be achieved can only flow from interaction between this process and others.