

The Cluster Munition Coalition is led by a Governance Board of:

Afghan Landmine Survivors Organisation, Action On Armed Violence, Asociación para Políticas Públicas-APP, Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines, Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas, DanChurchAid, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, ICBL Georgian Committee, IKV Pax Christi, IPPNW, Japan Campaign to Ban landmines, Mines Action Canada, Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines, Norwegian People's Aid, Protection and Religions for Peace.



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Stop funding cluster bomb producers

Global report shows progress made but billions still invested in companies producing weapons banned by most of the world

(London, 14 June 2012): The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) is calling on governments to ban investments in companies producing cluster bombs, following news that billions of dollars are still being invested in producers of these weapons. The CMC believes that countries that have joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions have a legal obligation to halt such investments.

The “Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions, a shared responsibility” report by CMC members IKV Pax Christi and FairFin, launched today in Berlin, shows that since 2009 banks and other financial institutions from 16 countries have invested more than \$43billion (USD) in companies making cluster bombs.

The bulk of these investments come from states that have not yet joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the global ban that prohibits the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster bombs, as well as assistance in any of these acts.

“It is encouraging that an increasing number of banks are pulling funds from cluster bomb producers, and that countries are legislating to prevent this practice, but this report clearly shows that more needs to be done,” said Laura Cheeseman, Director of the CMC.

“Most of the world has banned cluster bombs because of the severe and long-lasting impact they have, but even some countries that have joined the Convention are still allowing money to be invested in their production. The only way to prevent this is to explicitly legislate against it,” Cheeseman added.

Today CMC campaigners in Canada, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, the UK and elsewhere are urging their governments to take this step. They are also urging banks and financial institutions to recognize that their customers do not want their money being invested in deadly, indiscriminate weapons that have been banned by most of the world because of the devastation they cause.

Under the legal obligations of the Convention, states that have joined are not only legally bound to cease making cluster bombs themselves but also never to assist, encourage or induce anyone else to do so. While some States Parties to the Convention have enacted national laws that prohibit public or private financial institutions from providing such assistance, many others have not yet taken this step.

The Hall of Shame in IKV Pax Christi and FairFin’s report contains information about 137 banks and financial institutions that invest in producers of cluster bombs. Of these, 27 come from the following nine states that have joined the CCM: States Parties France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the UK, and signatories Australia, Canada, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland .

The CMC is today calling on all States Parties and signatories that have not already done so to swiftly enact national legislation that would explicitly make this activity illegal.

Although today's report contains concerning news, it also shows that progress is being made – both by states and financial institutions – to work towards a world where no more cluster bombs are produced.

Most recently Italy has joined Belgium, Ireland, Luxemburg and New Zealand as countries that have national legislation into place making it illegal to invest in companies that make cluster bombs.

This year The Netherlands and global banking capital Switzerland have also begun the process to enact similar legislation, showing that with political will these investments can be banned.

In further promising moves, 21 other states have made statements saying they deem investment in cluster bomb producers to be banned under the Convention, but have yet to follow these statements up with concrete law.

“There is still far too much money being invested in companies that make cluster bombs, but we are also pleased to see the positive steps being made. We congratulate both the states and the financial institutions that have cleaned up their act to make the world a safer place for innocent civilians this year and are hopeful that this trend continues,” said Cheeseman.

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Media contacts

Kate Wiggans
Media & Communications Manager ICBL-CMC (in London)
Email: kate@icblcmc.org
Mobile: +41 (0) 78 685 1146
Office : +44 (0) 207 256 9311

Samantha Bolton
Media consultant for IKV Pax Christi & FairFin (in Berlin)
Email: samanthabolton@gmail.com
Mobile: +41 (0) 79 239 2366

Notes to editors

To download the full “Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions, a shared responsibility” report, please click here: www.ikvpaxchristi.nl/stopexplosiveinvestments.

To view detailed information on cluster munition contamination, casualties, clearance and ban policy in every country in the world visit the [Cluster Munition Monitor Country Profiles](#)

For high resolution images of cluster bombs, cluster bomb survivors, and the CMC campaign in action [please visit the CMC on Flickr](#). Please credit all images used as shown.

The CMC believes investing in cluster munitions should be banned under the Convention on Cluster Munitions because Article 1 of the Convention reads: “Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to: (a) Use cluster munitions; (b) Develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer to anyone, directly or indirectly, cluster munitions; (c) **Assist, encourage or induce anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention.**”

About cluster bombs:

A cluster munition (or cluster bomb) is a weapon containing multiple - often hundreds - of small explosive submunitions or bomblets. Cluster munitions are dropped from the air or fired from the ground and designed to break open in mid-air, releasing the submunitions over an area that can be the size of several football fields. This means they cannot discriminate between civilians and soldiers. Many of the submunitions fail to explode on impact and remain a threat to lives and livelihoods for decades after a conflict.

About the Convention on Cluster Munitions:

The Convention on Cluster Munitions bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions and requires countries to clear affected areas within 10 years and destroy stockpiles of the weapon within eight. The Convention includes groundbreaking provisions requiring assistance to victims and affected communities. Signed in Oslo in December 2008, the Convention entered into force as binding international law on 1 August 2010 and is the most significant international disarmament treaty since the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty banning antipersonnel landmines.

About the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC):

The CMC is an international coalition with more than 350 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in around 100 countries to encourage urgent action against cluster bombs. The CMC facilitates NGO efforts worldwide to educate governments, the public and the media about the problems of cluster munitions and to urge universalisation and full implementation of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/>

111 countries have joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions (full States Parties - bold):

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, DR Congo, Republic of Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, The Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia FYR, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Zambia. See www.stopclustermunitions.org/treatystatus for details.