

17 December 2007
Geneva

NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE OSLO PROCESS
ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS REGARDING THE WELLINGTON
CONFERENCE

Dear Colleagues,

With the conclusion of the highly successful Conference in Vienna, we look forward to welcoming colleagues to the next step in the process, the Conference in Wellington in February.

As you know, the Wellington Conference will be held from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February. It will span the full five days – i.e. will begin on the Monday morning and end on the Friday evening – and colleagues should plan their arrangements accordingly.

The Wellington Conference also marks a transition in our process towards the Dublin Diplomatic Conference in May when we will conclude the Draft Convention. This will be reflected in our mode of operating, and the format and structure, at Wellington.

We have accomplished a huge deal since we first met in Oslo in February. The Conferences in Lima and Vienna, as well as San Jose, Belgrade and Brussels, have taken us a huge distance. As Vienna clearly showed, the political momentum behind the process is unstoppable, reflecting the serious concern about cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

We now need to build on that political momentum by further developing the text of the Draft Convention in preparation for Dublin. A revision of the text which reflects the discussion in Vienna will be issued later in January. While most parts of the text have now been well refined through our discussions so far, key areas require further work. We will need to approach this intensively at Wellington. Colleagues should therefore come to Wellington prepared for an

intensification of our substantive discussion. It is inevitable that this will require overlapping and parallel meetings and discussions during the Wellington Conference.

Given that the focus of our work in Wellington will be on specific substantive elements of the Draft Convention, there will be no allocation of time for the delivery of general statements at the Wellington Conference. However, we will make provision for the circulation of written copies of general statements during the meeting, for those delegations which wish to register views of a general nature.


A few delegations have indicated an interest in producing papers on specific issues in advance of the Wellington Conference. These papers may be forwarded electronically to charlotte.darlow@mfat.govt.nz, so that they can be placed on the conference website in order to facilitate access for all delegates to the Wellington Conference.

With regard to the arrangements for the Wellington Conference, could I remind colleagues of the importance of making early bookings for flights, as this is peak tourist season. Registrations have already opened, and we would encourage colleagues to register early, as accommodation bookings will be incorporated into the registration procedure. The Conference website is:

www.mfat.govt.nz/clustermunitiionswellington

We very much look forward to seeing you in Wellington.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don MacKay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

Don MacKay
Chair of the Wellington Conference