



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Roundtable Meeting for

Members of the National Assembly of Kenya

to discuss the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

18 August 2015

Introduction

The Parliamentary Forum in partnership with Africa Peace Forum organised a roundtable discussion where 8 Members of Parliament and 6 Civil Society representatives participated to discuss the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The seminar was held at Silver Spring Hotel on the 18th of August 2015.

Why Kenya must ratify the Cluster Munitions

Mereso Agina of Kenya Coalition against Landmines (KCAL) gave a presentation and described cluster sub munitions as being prone to detonation during normal livelihood activities. He stated that the sensitivity of some sub munitions is so extreme that detonations causing casualties have been reported from the vibrations of cars, animals, bicycles or even people on foot simply passing by. Often, casualties occur merely in the vicinity of an explosion, creating a specific and recognizable pattern of civilian harm. Failure rates are dependent on numerous environmental conditions which are not in the control of users. In reality, this makes sub munitions failure rates inevitably higher, contamination worse, and thus the human impact greater than assumed based on manufacturers' estimates. Circle of Impact: The Fatal Footprint of Cluster Munitions on People and Communities a report by Handicap International reconfirms that civilians are almost the sole victims of cluster munitions at 98 percent of casualties.

The seminar agreed that, although Kenya does not use, produce or stockpile Cluster Munitions, and is not directly affected by them, these weapons are a very real concern in Kenya's regional context. Kenya is has a strong strategic position in the region, and being a strong supporter of the Mine Ban Treaty, Kenya is well-positioned to set an example in the Great Lakes Regions by supporting the treaty banning Cluster Munitions alongside Uganda, Tanzania, and the 80 other countries that have joined the initiative.

Africa accounts for nearly a third of the countries affected by Cluster Munitions - Uganda, Angola, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Western Sahara are all affected - contributing to regional instability, and hindering development.

Way-forward Cluster Munitions

“Kenya is not affected by Cluster Munitions. However, being in a neighbourhood frequently embroiled in conflict, we must remain seized of the dangers posed by these munitions. Conflict situations often provide fertile ground for proliferation of all sorts of weapons including cluster munitions”¹. Kenya decided at the outset to join the international community in its efforts to come up with practical solutions to address the problems posed by Cluster Munitions that continue to cause havoc in many parts of the world especially in Great Lakes Region. PF should partner with KCAL to lobby the government of Kenya to ratify the Convention. PF should propose a possible tactic that will assist in getting Kenya ratify the Convention.

Participant list

Name	Surname	Organisation
Hon. David	Musila	Parliament of Kenya
Sen. Hayi Mohamed	Yusuf	Parliament of Kenya
Sen. Kariuki	Gatahi	Parliament of Kenya
Hon. Kioko	Mbuvi	Parliament of Kenya
Hon. James	Orengo	Parliament of Kenya
Hon. Masha	Ongoro	Parliament of Kenya
Hon. Wetangula	Masika	Parliament of Kenya
Hon. James	Kembi	Parliament of Kenya
Ochieng	Adala	Africa Peace Forum
Justus	Nyangaya	Amnesty
Elizabeth	Kisiigha	FECCLAHA
Omar	Ahmed	IPPNW
Agina	Mereso	KCAL
Joseph	Dube	Parliamentary Forum
Francis	Wairagu	RECSA
James	Ndungu	Saferworld

¹ Statement at the Cluster Munitions Conference held in Lusaka Zambia