



LIMA CONFERENCE ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
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Intervention on behalf of United Nations

Delivered by

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you for the opportunity to make a few remarks on definitions on behalf of the United Nations.

We would like to highlight that any definition must be outcome and effect orientated, since the humanitarian imperative must be at the core of what we are discussing here this week.

The United Nations Secretary-General in his statement on 4th April 2007 encouraged all endeavours to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the impact of cluster munitions on civilians. We believe that whatever definition States agree upon, it needs to be measured against the impact and effect of cluster munitions on civilians and their livelihoods.

UNDP, together with colleagues from UNMAS and UNICEF tabled definitions of cluster munitions and sub-munitions to the Group of Governmental Experts of the CCW in March 2005. These definitions focused on the technical design and function of the weapon. They must now be further developed and qualified to include information on the humanitarian and developmental impact of the weapon.

Whilst these issues are being deliberated and further refined over the coming months, we would like to remind all States of the call made by the Emergency Co-ordinator on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in November 2003 to the Meeting of States Parties to the CCW to freeze the use of cluster munitions, as an interim measure, until effective legal instruments that resolve humanitarian concerns are in place.

Thank you.