
PRESS RELEASE

Colombia commits to ratifying the Convention on Cluster Munitions by the Dubrovnik Conference

Bogotá, 11 August 2015 -- Yesterday in a meeting with the director of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), Megan Burke, and the director of the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCBL), Álvaro Jiménez, the Colombian President, Juan Manuel Santos, announced that Colombia will ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions by the time of the First Review Conference of the Convention, which will be hosted by Croatia in Dubrovnik on 7-11 September 2015.

“I am delighted about the commitment made by President Santos. We look forward to welcoming Colombia as a State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the coming weeks,” said the director of the Cluster Munition Coalition, Megan Burke.

Colombia signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 3 December 2008. In November 2009, Colombia announced the completion of the destruction of its cluster munitions stockpile. It has not retained any cluster munitions for training purposes.

“Thanks to President Santos and his government for committing to ban these indiscriminate weapons” said the director of the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, Álvaro Jiménez. “I also call on Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and Venezuela to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and make Latin America a cluster munition-free region,” he added.

After Paraguay’s ratification in March 2015, Colombia remains the only Latin American signatory to the Convention. Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and Venezuela are the only four Latin American countries that have not joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions yet.

To date 117 nations have joined the Convention, of which 93 are States Parties, and the remaining 24 including Colombia are signatories that have yet to ratify the Convention.

The First Review Conference of Convention will take place five years after the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions took place in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The conference will adopt a five-year action plan and a political declaration to ensure the effective implementation and full universalization of the Convention.

For interviews (in Spanish and English) contact:

Megan Burke, CMC Director

megan@icblcmc.org

Contact by Whatsapp: (+1) 4133160198

Álvaro Jiménez Millán, CCBL Director

alvaro@colombiasinminas.org

(+57) 3103221530

Irene Urango, Communication Coordinator CCBL

info@colombiasinminas.org

(+57) 3125858171