



Canberra, 19 October 2010

Ms Mary Wareham Coordinator, Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition

Dear Ms Mary Wareham,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 28 September 2010 together with a DVD of the documentary film on "Cluster Bombs: Banned in New Zealand".

I find it very informative and thank you for providing a copy of this publication to the Embassy.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to inform you that although Cambodia has not yet become a Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) signature state, Cambodia has been playing an active role in the CCM.

- Following the February 2007 launch of Oslo Process, Cambodia became the first country to endorse the Oslo Declaration.
- Cambodia hosted a regional forum on cluster munitions in Phnom Penh in March 2007.
- Cambodia has also actively involved in the international conferences and formal negotiations on cluster munitions.
- Cambodia participated in Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions in May 2008 and adopted the final treaty text.
- Cambodia attended as an observer in the CCM signing conference in Oslo in 2008.
- Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) has been directly addressing the threat posed by cluster munitions as part of its Explosive Remnant of War (ERW) clearance initiative (ERW Intervention and ERW Clearance).

- This will continue with increasing pace in this coming year through CMAC's proactive introduction of Battle Area Cluster Munitions found in a rice field of Kampong Cham Province Clearance (BAC) initiative.

While reiterating its commitment to the CCM, Cambodia needs time to study the impacts of the convention on its security capability and national defence.

Cambodia is not the country producing cluster bombs, so it is not a problem if we are one or two years late.

Yours sincerely,

Souncy

Chum Sounry Ambassador