

**Oslo Cluster Munitions Conference, 22-23 February 2007**  
**Final Statement by John Duncan, United Kingdom Ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament**

Mr Chairman, thank you and congratulations to Norway for hosting this conference.

I am pleased to confirm that the UK can support the Oslo Declaration on Cluster Munitions.

The UK is committed to making meaningful progress on this important issue. This is why we made clear to our parliament the UK's intent to phase out "dumb" cluster munitions.

It also why, and I am pleased to be able to clarify this point, the UK took action in the UN last November to table a compromise text in the CCW when it became clear that the "25 Nation Proposal" would not secure consensus, thus allowing the CCW to take forward work on this subject.

In sum Mr Chairman, the UK remains committed to this process and will participate actively in all efforts to achieve meaningful progress.

At this stage Mr Chairman it is not clear what form of 'internationally legally binding' might take which will secure the widest possible participation, but this is our aim, nor whether existing international law might need to be strengthened.

Mr Chairman, the UK welcomes the fact that you have revised the original draft declaration to include reference to the work being done in other fora, in particular the CCW.

Mr chairman, I have a few words of clarification to make on the declaration in the same vein as other speakers.

In para 1, we agree with others that the conclusion of a legally binding instrument is our aspiration and that in common with other such agreements a transition period will be required in the final instrument itself.

In para 1(i), the reference to "cluster munitions which cause unacceptable harm" means a certain type of cluster munitions and that the definition of these cluster munitions will be subject to agreement.

In para 3, as I have said, the other relevant fora includes the CCW given the importance of including all the main users and producers of cluster munitions and for universality.

That said Mr Chairman, I would like to confirm our support for the Oslo Declaration and request that the UK be added to the list of nations supporting it.