



Africa and the Oslo Process to Ban Cluster Munitions

Prepared by Human Rights Watch

The engagement of countries from Africa in the Oslo Process, which culminated in the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in Dublin on 30 May 2008, was instrumental in setting this new international standard.¹ A total of 34 countries from Africa agreed to adopt the CCM, detailed in the following table:

Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia.

African Countries that Agreed to Adopt the CCM, May 2008

It is interesting to note the diversity of experience among the African countries that agreed to adopt the CCM:

- Cluster munitions have been used in **Chad, DR Congo, Morocco** (in the disputed Western Sahara), **Sierra Leone, Sudan,** and **Uganda**.
- **South Africa** is one of the 34 countries known to have produced cluster munitions and is a former exporter.
- **Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan,** and **Uganda** are among the at least 77 countries that have stockpiled cluster munitions.

Another nine countries participated in at least one meeting of the Oslo Process (Oslo, Lima, Vienna, and Wellington) but were not present at the negotiations in Dublin to adopt the Convention: **Algeria, Angola, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Liberia,** and **Somalia**.

Use of Cluster Munitions in Africa

A total of nine African countries are contaminated to some degree with cluster munition remnants. Nearly one-third of the locations where cluster munitions have been used globally are in Africa, and the majority of this use has occurred in the past 10 to 15 years. The cluster munitions used on the continent originated in the former USSR, the US, the UK, France, Greece, and Chile. Additionally, abandoned stockpiles of cluster munitions have been found in several countries.

Reports of use of cluster munitions in Africa include:

Angola	Deminers have found dud Soviet-made PTAB submunitions in various locations.
Chad	French aircraft dropped cluster bombs on a Libyan airfield at Wadi Doum, and Libyan forces also used AO-1SCh and PTAB-2.5 submunitions at various locations in 1986-1987.
DR Congo	Deminers have found BL-755 bombs and dud submunitions in the villages of Kasu, Katelwa, and Est Agrico in Kabalo territory.
Eritrea	Ethiopia attacked the Asmara airport in 1998 with air-dropped cluster bombs. Ethiopia also dropped BL-755 bombs in Gash-Barka province of western Eritrea. A UN explosive ordnance disposal team in the area of Melhadega identified and destroyed a dud M20G DPICM submunition of Greek origin in October 2004.
Ethiopia	Eritrea attacked the Mekele airport in 1998 with air-dropped cluster bombs.
Sierra Leone	Nigerian peacekeepers dropped BLG-66 Beluga bombs on the eastern town of Kenema in 1997.
Sudan	Government forces used air-dropped cluster munitions, including Chilean made PM-1 submunitions, between 1996 and 1999 in the southern part of the country.
Uganda	Deminers in the northern district of Gulu have found RBK-250/275 bombs and AO-1SCh submunitions.
Western Sahara	Moroccan forces used both air-dropped and artillery-delivered cluster munitions against a non-state armed group at various times between 1975 and 1988.

Locations and Details of Known Cluster Munition Use in Africa

Production, Stockpiling, and Transfer of Cluster Munitions in Africa

Two countries in Africa—**Egypt** and **South Africa**—have produced and exported cluster munitions. At least 14 countries stockpile cluster munitions. Thirteen countries have imported the weapon.² The number of countries in Africa that are known to stockpile cluster munitions has grown as more states have become engaged in the Oslo Process and new information has become available. **Uganda** pledged to destroy its stockpile during the Belgrade Conference on States Affected by Cluster Munitions in October 2007.

African countries that stockpile cluster munitions include:

Country	Type Stockpiled
Algeria	KMG-U dispenser
Angola	KMG-U dispenser RBK bomb
Egypt	CBU-87 bomb M26 rocket M26A1 rocket M42 projectile Rockeye bomb SAKR-18 rocket SAKR-36 rocket
Eritrea	CB-500 bomb
Ethiopia	BL-755 bomb CB-500 bomb
Guinea	9M55K rocket
Guinea-Bissau	RBK bomb

Country	Type Stockpiled
Libya	KMG-U dispenser RBK bomb
Morocco	CBU-52 bomb CBU-58 bomb M483A1 projectile Rockeye bomb
Nigeria	BL-755 bomb
South Africa	CB-470 bomb M2001 projectile TIEKIE bomb
Sudan	KMG-U dispenser RBK bomb
Uganda	RBK bomb
Zimbabwe	CB-470 bomb

Types of Cluster Munitions Stockpiled by African Countries

Deminers operating in **Angola** have documented the presence of casings of RBK 250-275 cluster bombs among abandoned ammunition stocks; it is unclear which belligerent party controlled these stocks during the decades of conflict in Angola.

Moldova reported in its submission to the UN Register of Conventional Arms for calendar year 2000 the transfer of 860 9M55K missiles for the 220mm *Uragan* multiple launch rocket system (each containing 30 high-explosive submunitions) to **Guinea**.

The British NGO Landmine Action documented the presence of PTAB 2.5 bomblets and RBK series air-dropped cluster munitions in **Guinea-Bissau**. The munitions were ejected by an explosion at an ammunition storage facility in Bra Barrio, located in the outskirts of Bissau City, sometime in 2000.

Egypt and **South Africa** are the only two countries on the continent known to have produced cluster munitions, and both countries have exported in the past.³ Egypt is also a significant recipient of exports of cluster munitions, primarily from the United States, which include artillery projectiles, aircraft bombs, and surface-fired multiple launch rockets. **Morocco** is another big recipient of US exports of cluster munitions.

¹ Participation of African Countries in the Oslo Process, February 2007-April 2008:

- Angola, Egypt, Mozambique, and South Africa endorsed the declaration made at the Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions on 22-23 February 2007, which committed them to “Conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument that prohibits the use and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians and secure adequate provision of care and rehabilitation to survivors and clearance of contaminated areas.”
- 14 countries participated in the Lima Conference on Cluster Munitions in May 2007: Angola, Burundi, Chad, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.
- 38 countries participated in the Vienna Conference on Cluster Munitions in December 2007: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo (Rep. of), Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, DR Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.
- 30 countries subscribed to the Wellington Declaration: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo (Rep. of), Cote d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Subscribing to the Wellington Declaration affirmed the country’s “objective of concluding the negotiation of such an instrument prohibiting cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians in Dublin in May 2008.”
- 39 African countries gathered in Livingstone, Zambia on 31 March and 1 April 2008 for an all-Africa Oslo Process Conference on Cluster Munitions to discuss the key elements of the future convention and determine coordinated African positions. The participating countries were: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo (Rep. of), Cote d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

² Globally, 34 countries are known to have produced over 210 different types of air-dropped and surface-launched cluster munitions including projectiles, bombs, rockets, missiles, and dispensers. Existing stockpiled cluster munitions contain billions of individual submunitions. Cluster munitions are stockpiled by at least 77 states and have been used in at least 31 countries or disputed territories. According to available information, at least 13 countries have transferred over 50 types of cluster munitions to at least 60 other countries.

³ Jane’s Information Group reports that the Alpha bomblet developed for the South African CB-470 cluster bomb was produced by the predecessor of Zimbabwe, Rhodesia, and that “[z]imbabwe may have quantities of the Alpha bomblet.” *Jane’s Air Launched Weapons*, Robert Hewson, ed. (Surrey, UK: Jane’s Information Group Limited, 2004), p. 440.