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**ADAPTING LETTERS TO GOVERNMENTS**

* Most importantly you should note whether there are financial institutions investing in cluster munition producers based in that country, and if so, name these financial institutions. Governments will be most interested to know about financial institutions that have headquarters in their country.
* If the government has stated that it interprets the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) to prohibit investments in cluster munition producers, this should be acknowledged in the last paragraph of the letter, with a focus on asking the government to go one step further and include a prohibition on investments in national law. You should also note any parliamentary initiatives ongoing in that country to prohibit investments in cluster munitions.

Before sending the letter you should:

* Note whether your country has joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and if it still needs to accede or ratify you should encourage your government to do so in the letter.
* Remember to amend all the parts of the letter highlighted in yellow, including putting it on your organisation’s letterhead and providing your contact details where a response can be sent.

**TEMPLATE LETTER TO GOVERNMENTS**

[ LETTERHEAD]

[NAME]

[MINISTRY]

[COUNTRY]

[DATE]

Dear Minister,

The government of [country] has [signed / ratified / acceded to] the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). This convention comprehensively bans the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions and is the most significant disarmament and humanitarian treaty to be negotiated in the last 10 years. In joining, your government has shown a real commitment to putting an end for all time to the humanitarian harm caused by cluster munitions.

A report by Cluster Munition Coalition[[1]](#footnote-1) member PAX[[2]](#footnote-2) (the Netherlands) shows that financial institutions in several countries are investing in cluster munition producers. This includes the following financial institutions based in [country]: LIST. The report also documents the countries that have legislation prohibiting (forms of) investment in cluster munition producers as well as states that have issued an interpretive statement expressing the view that the convention prohibits investments in cluster munition producers. Please find the full report here: <http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/report>

Financial investment in producers constitutes a form of assistance in the development and production of cluster munitions. Cluster munitions continue to be produced in some states that have not yet outlawed these weapons. Although States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions must stop producing cluster munitions, some financial institutions continue to fund their production by investing in corporations that manufacture them elsewhere. This practise undermines the commitment that countries that have joined the convention have made to ban these weapons and runs counter to their obligations under international law.

To ban a weapon because of the humanitarian harm they cause, but to still allow for investments in their production is morally unacceptable, and an ever growing group of countries considers it is not legally permissible either. Article 1 (1)(c) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions states that *“each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to assist, encourage or induce anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention.”* Several countries on-board the convention have already made interpretive statements that identify investment in cluster munitions as prohibited under the convention and/or have implemented laws that prohibit investments in cluster munitions.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Governments have an important role in ensuring that the Convention on Cluster Munitions has the far reaching impact that your government has committed itself to. One aspect of this commitment is to ensure that the production of cluster munitions ceases. We urge the government of [country] to confirm in a statement or letter that it considers the investment in cluster munition producers to be banned under the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In order to ensure that investments in cluster munitions stops, we urge [country] to pass legislation which prohibits financial institutions and state run funds from investing in cluster munitions producers.

Yours sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[ORGANISATION]

[ADDRESS]

1. The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) is a global civil society campaign working to eradicate cluster munitions, prevent further casualties from these weapons and put an end for all time to the suffering they cause. See [www.stopclustermunitions.org](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The first ‘Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions; a shared responsibility’ report by PAX (then *IKV Pax Christi*) and FairFin (then *Netwerk Vlaanderen*) was released in October 2009. Updates of the report were published in April 2010, May 2011, June 2012, December 2013 and November 2014. The June 2016 report, published by PAX, presents the latest findings about investments in producers of cluster munitions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Please see: <http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/legislation>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)