

Lima, April 10th 2007

Dear Sir,

Within the frame of the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) held in Geneva in November 2006, 25 countries, by means of a joint declaration, expressed our willingness to initiate a negotiation process of a legally binding international instrument on cluster munitions.

On the occasion of the Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions, held from last February 22nd to February 23rd, 46 States approved the Oslo Declaration on Cluster Munitions, thereby committing ourselves to make efforts to negotiate and conclude, in 2008, a legally binding international instrument in order to prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions as well as to establish a framework for cooperation and assistance that ensures the provision of care and rehabilitation to victims, clearance of contaminated areas, risk education and destruction of stockpiles of prohibited cluster munitions. Attached hereto please find the text of the Oslo Declaration.

In this sense, I am pleased to invite your country to participate in the Lima Conference on Cluster Munitions to be held from May 23rd to May 25th, 2007. This first meeting of the process initiated in Oslo will be directed at identifying and carrying out a preliminary analysis of the main constituent elements of a future legally binding international instrument to prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions causing unacceptable harm to civilians. The analysis will be intended to be made based on a combination of the technical aspects and military characteristics of said munitions as well as those humanitarian issues implying their use.

In view of the foregoing, I will appreciate your nominating an official or officials you deem convenient, preferably decision makers, to participate in the Lima Conference on Cluster Munitions.

For your knowledge, 46 States that signed the Oslo Declaration, as well as those other states that in the course of these months have shown interest in participating in this process, are invited. Furthermore, the United Nations agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations that may contribute to the success of the negotiations will also be invited.

The agenda of the meeting, as well as other information of interest to participants, will be subsequently submitted. For further information, your Ministry may contact the following officials assigned to the Lima Conference on Cluster Munitions: lballon@rree.gob.pe, eprieto@rree.gob.pe

I avail myself to express you my highest consideration and personal esteem.

José Antonio García Belaunde
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Perú