

Five Questions on Landmines and Cluster Munitions

Prepared by the ANZCMC and CALM for parties contesting the New Zealand General Election
28 October 2011

These questions relate to aid, defence, disarmament, finance, and foreign affairs.

If elected, would you:

1. Adequately resource our diplomats so that New Zealand actively engages with and supports our existing treaty commitments, while working with like-minded governments to advance the disarmament agenda on conventional weapons?
2. Direct New Zealand officials to promote universalisation (accession, ratification) of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions and 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, especially with our Pacific neighbours?
3. Continue and expand New Zealand funding support to the clearance of unexploded remnants of war, including landmines and cluster munition remnants?
4. Reinstate the contribution of New Zealand Defence Force military personnel to serve as seconded staff in the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in New York?
5. Take measures to ensure that New Zealand investors, including state owned enterprises and crown financial institutions such as the New Zealand Superannuation Fund, fully comply with the disinvestment provisions of the Cluster Munitions Prohibition Act 2009?

Notes:

#1 – We understand that role of New Zealand’s dedicated disarmament ambassador in Geneva is being reviewed along with all other disarmament staffing positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

#2. – All Pacific nations have joined the Mine Ban Treaty except Tonga, Marshall Islands, and FS Micronesia. See: <http://bit.ly/pNIAOE> Nine Pacific nations have not yet joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions: Nine PIF states have yet to join the Convention: Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. See: <http://bit.ly/rdFmAf>

#3 – We are interested in knowing if you would support expanded New Zealand support for mine action in the Pacific following the adoption of the Unexploded Ordnance strategy by Pacific Islands Forum leaders in August 2011. See: <http://bit.ly/pNIAOE>

#4 – After 16 years the NZDF contribution to UNMAS was terminated in October 2011, apparently due to defence cut-backs. See: <http://bit.ly/sz9aJr>

#5 – Investment in the production of cluster munitions is banned by the 2009 law and the ANZCMC has recommended a series of measures that should be taken to ensure compliance. See: <http://bit.ly/nuXtFy>