

Message from Japan to the Dublin International Parliamentary Forum on Cluster Munitions

May 27, 2008

1. We convey our best wishes to the Dublin International Parliamentary Forum on the occasion of the Dublin Conference of the Oslo process.
2. On the 25th of April this year, the nonpartisan Parliamentary League to Promote the Prohibition of Cluster Munitions was established—a rare achievement considered even globally. The opportunity to establish this Parliamentary League dates back to the Vienna Conference of the Oslo Process from the 5th – 7th December 2007 when, on the occasion of the Parliamentary Forum on the Eve of the Vienna Conference on Cluster Munitions held on the 12th of December, President of the National Council of Austria's Parliament Barbara Prammer issued a letter of invitation to Speaker of Japan's House of Representatives Yohei KONO, and Speaker KONO subsequently dispatched a parliamentary delegation. The President of this Parliamentary League is Yohei KONO MP.
3. For the approximately sixty years following the Second World War, Japan is a country that has continued to assert the importance of global disarmament and arms control, and this Parliamentary League, expecting the Government to fulfill an active role towards the prohibition of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, is a body that promotes such efforts.
4. The diplomatic officials, parliamentary members, and members of civil society who have converged at the Dublin Conference are requested to extend their utmost efforts to bring about the success of this Conference, with the resolution to eradicate the harm and tragedy of cluster munitions, which bring about endless, indiscriminate humanitarian suffering even after the cessation of conflict. As a Japanese Parliamentary League, we are hopeful that all the countries of the world will display the strong political will necessary for this end.

Parliamentary League to Promote the Prohibition of Cluster Munitions
(President Yohei KONO MP)