



ICBUW

International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

Workshop:

Towards a Uranium Weapons Treaty

2 April 2008

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Eliminating DU Weapons –
The Way Ahead

Prof. Manfred Mohr, ICBUW / IALANA

UN Geneva 2008



ICBUW

International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

1. The Problem

- **Still relevant - suffering**
- **From a tiny to a sensitive “political” issue**
- **A multifaceted approach**
- **Cluster munitions: striking similarities**
- **Scientific, legal and political dimensions**

UN Geneva 2008





ICBUW

International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

2. IHL Evaluations

- **No specific prohibition of use existing but “doubts” arguable**
- **Valid principles (at hand):**
 - (a) The rule of distinction**
 - (b) Prohibition of indiscriminate attacks (“beyond control“)**
 - (c) Proportionality**
 - (d) “The precautionary principle“**
- **The review procedure: before and after the Gulf War**

UN Geneva 2008





ICBUW

International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

3. The Process

- **Treaty to enforce existing IHL prohibition of use**
- **From IHL to disarmament: binding instrument to actually ban**
- **The Ottawa / Oslo model:**
- **Yes: a long, hard and costly process**

UN Geneva 2008





ICBUW

International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

4. “Military aspects”

- “Balance between military and humanitarian considerations” – already kept by modern IHL
- Military manuals, regulations (like US Army 700-48) and training: relevant but not enough
- “Ongoing military utility” vs. reasonable risk assessment
- Alternatives: Tungsten?

UN Geneva 2008





ICBUW

International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

5. Draft instruments

- **Draft Convention (Treaty)**
- **A corresponding basic structure (DU - CM)**
 - **Definitions**
 - **Prohibition of use, production, stockpiling - destruction**
 - **Clearance and marking – international cooperation**
 - **Victim assistance (crucial)**
- **“Rewrite” DU Drafts under CM Drafts’ impression - an invitation to dialogue and legal discussion**

UN Geneva 2008





ICBUW

International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

6. The UN Setting

- **UN GA: a new (first) resolution**
- **Awareness raising and reporting**
- **Securing input**
- **6 November: Int. Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War**

UN Geneva 2008



7. The EU and Regional Organisations

- **EP Resolutions 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006:
Call for a moratorium**
- **EU activities and lobbying : Conferences
and working schemes**
- **Return to the Council of Europe**
- **OAS, ASEAN, OAU...**



ICBUW

International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

8. Domestic Setting(s)

- **Decisive – interplay**
- **Legislation: Belgium...**
- **Cases: Italy...**
- **Parliaments: NL, Germany (incl. petition)...**
- **Disinvestment: (German) Commerzbank vs. (Belgian) KBC...**

UN Geneva 2008





ICBUW

International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

9. Steps and Deadlines

- The “next logical step” - in/after 2008
- Moratoria on use – stop of production
- A conference in the capital of a lead country
- DU-free zones