Thank you Mr/Madam President.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is growing strong, with 103 States Parties, all of which scrupulously respect its core prohibitions on the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions. The UN resolution that encourages states to come on board the convention was supported by 142 states last year, including 32 states outside the convention.

The Cluster Munition Coalition condemns any use of cluster munitions by any actor, including ongoing use by the Russian and Syrian authorities, and use in recent years by the armed coalition led by Saudi Arabia.

The suffering caused by cluster munitions is so obvious and horrendous, both at the time of use and in the aftermath. We see it in Syria, where the attacks continue and thousands of civilian casualties have been reported. We see it in Yemen, where cluster munitions take lives away and where explosive submunitions will continue to threaten communities far into the future, until land is cleared to humanitarian standards.

No responsible government should keep cluster munitions as part of its arsenal. No one should want to be associated with these weapons in any way.

To states that are not yet on board the convention, we wish to say: if you feel like international law, multilateralism, decency, and respect for human lives are increasingly disregarded and threatened, there is something you can do about it. There is action you can take. Help to reinforce international law, claim your role in multilateralism, state your belief in the rule of law – through joining and implementing international instruments. The Convention on Cluster Munitions is one of them, and based on the findings of the recently released Cluster Munition Monitor 2018 annual report, the evidence clearly demonstrates that the convention has a real positive impact on people’s lives.

Thank you.

Statement at the UN First Committee
15 October 2018