UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT

to the

First Preparatory Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

5th February 2015

Please check against delivery
Mr President,

1. We are grateful for your work in preparing the paper on the organisation of meetings and convention machinery after the First Review Conference. I am sure that all States Parties can agree that the ideal we are aiming for is to have meetings which are focused, efficient, and which lead to tangible progress in meeting the aims of the CCM.

2. In view of those goals, the UK is not convinced about how our annual intersessional meetings add value to the Convention. Therefore, we support moving to a model of only holding annual Meetings of States Parties, in line with Option 2 of the paper. This would make the annual Meetings of States Parties more valuable, reduce the risk of duplication of effort, and in our view be sufficient to address the issues which arise in the implementation of the Convention. However, we would be very interested to hear the views of those States Parties who consider that the intersessional meetings should be retained.

3. We were also grateful to receive some reflections on the role of the president and of the coordinating committees. The suggested amendment to the start date of the president’s tenure sounds sensible, and we would be content to support it. Likewise, maintaining the current structure of coordinating committees, whose valuable work is recognised by all of us, seems sensible, and we see no need to change it.

Thank you.