

**Remarks on the Political Declaration  
Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Geneva, 7 September 2016**



Thank you for the floor Mr. President.

We appreciate the innovation and the energy that you and the Netherlands have put into the Political Declaration. We hope that it will spur a re-dedication on the part of States Parties, that it will spur States Parties to commit to the universalization and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions even more vigorously and urgently.

We would like to comment on two aspects of the Declaration. We are pleased with the language condemning any use by any actor. Such condemnation is vital to the stigmatization of the weapon, and stigmatization is ultimately the key to the continued success of the Convention.

With respect to the phrase “in conformity with Article 21” after the condemnation, our view is that this phrase is not needed and we would be happy to see it go. However, what is important is that States Parties should see this language as confirming that while States Parties can engage in joint military operations with a non-signatory, if that non-signatory uses cluster munitions, the State Party should condemn such use.

With respect to the 2030 date, it is good to set targets, but we urge that States Parties do not lose sight of the 2020 date. That is the 10-year anniversary of entry into force – it is the year for the initial clearance deadlines. By 2020, all States Parties should have finished stockpile destruction and nearly all should have finished clearance. Please do not let 2030 become an excuse not to complete crucial obligations “as soon as possible,” as required by the Convention.

Thank you.