



**Cluster Munition Coalition Opening Statement  
Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meeting  
16 April 2012  
Delivered by Lynn Bradach**

Thank you Madam President,

My name is Lynn Bradach. I am here this week with fellow campaigners from the Cluster Munition Coalition, and colleagues and friends that like me, are a victim of this weapon – Dejan from Serbia, Mina from Croatia, and Raed from Lebanon.

It has been nearly ten years since my son Travis—a United States Marine-- was killed by a submunition while clearing unexploded ordnance in Iraq. These ten years feel like such a long time. Yet on the other hand, it is quite remarkable how far this community has come in bringing about a ban on cluster munitions and putting it into action.

This Convention is working. In the last couple of years alone since the treaty came into force, more than 68.2 million stockpiled submunitions have been destroyed. This is progress we should all be proud of. But as long as there are still stocks of these weapons, we cannot be confident that they won't be used in the future and that more innocent lives won't be lost. In large part this treaty is about preventing future tragedies.

One of the biggest priorities and challenges is getting more countries to join this Convention. Whether states have used cluster munitions or not, stockpile the weapon, or suffered the devastating humanitarian consequences of this weapon on their soil – all countries need to join this Convention. Each and every country should stand up, voice its support and say: I am against this. Silence does not acknowledge the wrong that has been done. It is with power in numbers that we can win this fight against cluster munitions and bring an end for all time to the suffering that they cause.

This is a fight that we should fight together, as partnership has been a hallmark of this process and it will be a crucial ingredient for its success. As we work together to universalize and implement the Convention, we must continue to act with a great sense of urgency and shared purpose, and to always be motivated by the plight of the victims—past, present, and future.

Thank you.