

**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

Exchange of Views on Political Declaration

Mr President,

1. I would like to commend you for all of your efforts in leading our preparations for the first review conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The United Kingdom remains fully committed to the work of the Convention, and looks forward to participating in the first Review Conference in September.
2. We welcome the content and focus of the Political Declaration, and consider it to have many useful elements. Among these is the focus on continuing to assist affected communities through clearance activities, and the need to continue promoting universalisation of the convention.
3. However, we would welcome the use of treaty-based terms in the declaration as far as possible. To that end, in paragraph 7 we suggest replacing the first sentence with the following sentence: 'States Parties shall continue to encourage States not party to the Convention to ratify, accept, approve or accede to this Convention, with the goal of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention.' This language is in line with Article 21 (1) of the Convention. We would welcome the reshaping of paragraph 13 to reflect this language as well.
4. Next, we suggest changing paragraph 22 in the draft political declaration to read as follows: 'A world free of the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions is an achievable goal.' This language reflects the preamble to the Convention.
5. In closing, we look forward to hearing the views of other States Parties on this declaration, and to creating a set of useful outcome documents that will further the work of the Convention.

Thank you.