

**Africa Regional Workshop on Universalisation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Addis Ababa, 4-5 August 2016**

**Opening statement (5minutes)**

- Delighted for the opportunity to be able to speak to you today and to attend this useful workshop.
- Express gratitude to the Convention on Cluster Munitions Implementation Support Unit for its excellent organisation and to NZ's fellow Coordinators Zambia and Ecuador (Coordinators for Universalisation) and to Switzerland (for its valuable contribution to the event).
- New Zealand is a long-time supporter of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We believe that cluster munitions cause unacceptable harm and should be banned. They cause widespread harm on impact and remain dangerous, killing and injuring civilians long after conflict has ended. One third of all recorded cluster munition casualties are children. 60% of cluster munition casualties are injured while undertaking normal activities.
- It is for these reasons that we urge those states which have not yet ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions to do so. Universalisation of the Convention is vital in order to continue to build the international norm against this weapon.
- NZ is very proud that our Convention family recently acquired its 100th member in April this year. We were especially proud that this newest member – Palau – came from our own Pacific region. We are also of course delighted that three countries from Africa were able to ratify the Convention in 2015 and heartily congratulate Somali, Rwanda and South Africa on this achievement.
- NZ has served on the Convention's Coordination Committee since 2011, in the role of National Implementation Measures Coordinator. I will speak to you later today about the importance of implementing the Convention's provisions domestically, and about the sorts of assistance that are available to countries who wish to do so.
- We hope this workshop will build on similar meetings that have taken place in the past and achieve real progress with respect to universalisation and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Africa.
- I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the course of this workshop and to discussing your national situations in greater detail.