Thank you Mr Chairman

The global disarmament agenda contains many serious and urgent challenges. The international community’s demonstration of the political will required to ban cluster munitions has shown us that success is possible. The Oslo Process was driven by the imperatives of humanity, of urgency and of possibility.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions exists because of many countries and actors including affected states, past users and producers, from all regions. It belongs to all of us. Those involved with the process should all be very proud of it and proud of the roles they played to make it happen.

On behalf of the members of the Cluster Munitions Coalition in more than 80 countries, I urge all States to use the opportunity of the First Committee to announce your intention to sign the Treaty. We congratulate the many countries that have already announced their intention to sign, including most recently Australia, and hope others will follow this example.

The sadness and suffering caused by cluster munitions are very deep and hard to express, but we can now match this sadness with the hope and promise of a new treaty that will address these problems and prevent future suffering.

Beyond the practical obligations that will improve the lives of those affected, this treaty contributes to the strong stigma against these weapons, reducing the chances that they will be used again.

Mr Chairman, I’d like to highlight four key points about the treaty.

First, the comprehensive prohibition is fundamental. The treaty bans cluster munitions as a whole category of weapons – not just some cluster bombs sometimes, but all cluster bombs, always. It bans their use, production, stockpiling and transfer.

Second, it takes a holistic approach. The treaty not only bans the weapon; it also provides for clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, as well as international cooperation and assistance, to ensure that affected countries receive the resources they need to meet their obligations.
Third, the **treaty is largely preventative**. The world stockpile amounts to billions of submunitions. So by taking action **NOW**, we will prevent more areas from the devastation felt by countries like Laos. We are preventing the problem from growing to a scale that could eclipse anti-personnel landmines.

Fourth, the **process has been a highly effective example** of international diplomacy that gets real results. It was based on important lessons learned from the Mine Ban Treaty. We have succeeded because of a partnership between states, civil society, the UN, ICRC and other international organisations. The process has been rooted in humanitarian and development realities, and driven by affected countries and by survivors themselves.

The treaty is a great success in many ways, but our work is just beginning.

**Mr Chairman, the CMC’s key messages are:**

- States should sign the CCM at the Oslo Signing Conference on 3 December.
- States should work towards rapid ratification of the CCM in order to ensure swift entry into force.
- States must not adopt, endorse or ratify any agreement in the CCW that would contradict the standard set by the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We have been inspired by this new convention and the process to bring it about, and we hope you have been too. We look forward to working with you in the future and we hope to see many of you in Oslo in December.

Thank you.