Thank you Chair.

We welcome the inclusion of text seeking to urge to all parties to armed conflict to facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage for humanitarian relief to civilian populations in need; however, we strongly recommend a strengthening of language in 4.4 and also to the suggestions set out in 4.6 in encouraging cooperation with local stakeholders.

In a world of increasingly complex conflicts and protracted humanitarian crisis, humanitarian organisations like Save the Children are facing a remarkable shrinking of the humanitarian space in which to deliver assistance in line with core humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality impartiality and operational independence.

In conflicts where explosive weapons are used in populated areas, civilians, including children are often in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Recognising this right to effective assistance, including protection, requires an operating environment that is conducive to the regular and continued deployment of staff and supplies, and managed in accordance with humanitarian principles.

As such, we recommend amending the language in 4.4 to read:

Ensure all parties to armed conflict allow and facilitate rapid unimpeded passage for principled humanitarian action to civilian populations in need and the safeguarding of the humanitarian space.

For 4.6 we suggest this paragraph be retained, but strengthened in line with language outlined in other sections so as to:

Encourage Strengthen cooperation with local stakeholders, civil society experts, and humanitarian organisations specialised in this field;