



Statement on the Dubrovnik Political Declaration by the Cluster Munition Coalition to the Second Preparatory Meeting for the First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

24 June 2015

The Cluster Munition Coalition wholeheartedly supports the draft political declaration and we thank the President-Designate for putting forward such a strong document. We believe that it well reflects the intentions and ambitions that states hold to end suffering from all cluster munitions, and we would like it to remain strong.

Towards that end and similarly to recent comments from New Zealand and Lebanon, we are disappointed by suggestions by a small number of states to introduce weaker language inconsistent with the sense of outrage that led to this convention. Surely States Parties are distressed, not just concerned. Surely States Parties wish to deplore use, not just express concern. A five-year Political Declaration needs to be as bold and explicit as possible and be clearly aimed at the complete elimination of these weapons.

Regarding proposals to add the word “allegations” or “alleged” in reference to recent use, we consider all five recent instances of use to be confirmed, even if it is not certain who is responsible in each case. Significant physical evidence that use has occurred has been collected and made available to States Parties for their examination. If some States Parties feel that further evidence is needed, we encourage them to act to collect this information.

We would like to support suggestions made to commit to strengthening national ownership and to naming all instances of cluster munition use since entry into force of the Convention.

The Cluster Munition Coalition commits to continue contributing to the aims and ambitions that we know will be set out in the final version of this Political Declaration. Thank you.