***(Translate into appropriate language as needed)***

***Re: Joining the Convention on Cluster Munitions***

Excellency,

I am writing as a member of the Cluster Munition Coalition, a global network in some 100 countries working to end the suffering caused by cluster munitions, to urge [COUNTRY] to ratify/accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions without delay.

As [COUNTRY] faces the COVID-19 pandemic together with the rest of the world, multilateral action to ensure a safe and secure public, and international solidarity is more important than ever. In these challenging times, the world needs good news and [COUNTRY] is in a position to provide it by joining and announcing support for this life saving treaty.

We are calling on [COUNTRY] to step up its efforts to complete the ratification/accession process of the Convention on Cluster Munitions as soon as circumstances allow and to join the 108 States Parties this year at the Second Review Conference taking place November 23-27 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

This landmark meeting takes place ten years after the Convention came into force and is an opportunity for States Parties to assess progress made to date and establish a roadmap for the work ahead.

Cluster munitions kill indiscriminately at the time of their use and long after the end of hostilities and as such are incompatible with the principles of International Humanitarian Law. Over 90% of recorded cluster munition victims are civilians.

Impressive progress has been made towards ridding the world of cluster munitions. Today the weapon has been successfully stigmatized with 60% of the world’s states on board the Convention and the vast majority of other states abiding de facto by the prohibition on use and production of the weapon. More than 178 million submunitions have been destroyed to date representing 98% of stocks held by States Parties. Under the Convention, vast areas of land have been cleared with eight countries finishing clearance completely. The steps taken by States to assess and address the needs of cluster munitions victims, have been critical to the Convention’s success.

However, cluster munitions continue to take lives and destroy communities. Much more needs to be done to put an end to the suffering caused by this weapon. Each and every country needs to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions without delay to ensure this illegal weapon will never be used again by anyone, anywhere at any time.

As civil society, we stand ready to assist and work with you to support efforts aimed at joining and implementing the Convention.

We look forward to seeing representatives from [COUNTRY] in Lausanne and to welcoming [COUNTRY] among States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in its 10th anniversary year.

There is no time to spare in saving lives and limbs from the effects of this indiscriminate weapon.

Sincerely,