Statement on Compliance
7th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
4-6 September 2017

Thank you, Mr. President.

Compliance by States Parties with all of the legal obligations of the Convention on Cluster Munitions is obviously crucial to its short- and long-term success. And thus far, the record of compliance is very good. There have been no incidents or even allegations of States Parties engaging in new use of cluster munitions or in any other activities prohibited by the convention. But that does not mean that everything is perfect.

Some areas of compliance concern include:
- Only 80 percent of States Parties have provided their initial transparency reports under the convention, and the compliance rate for the provision of annual updates is not impressive;
- No State Party has enacted new implementation legislation over the past year, and too few overall have enacted new laws or other national implementation measures;
- Momentum to destroy stocks appears to be waning as few cluster munitions have been destroyed in the past year, and no State Party completed stockpile destruction in the past year;
- A small number of States Parties are still retaining cluster munitions for training and research purposes, of which several have yet to consume any of their retained cluster munitions.

The enduring partnership between States Parties, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations will help to ensure that compliance challenges are overcome.

We remain deeply concerned by and cannot accept any new use of cluster munitions by any actor. The civilian harm caused by the continued use of cluster munitions in Syria by the Syrian government with Russia's support should concern us all. In Yemen, a Saudi Arabia-led coalition of states has continued to use cluster munitions, albeit on a far smaller scale than in previous years. The unverified reports and allegations of new cluster munition use in Iraq and Libya deserve follow-up.

We expect every State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions to firmly condemn any use of cluster munitions by any actor. We urge you to follow-up with the users of cluster munitions to demand they stop this use immediately and offer support to ensure the destruction of stocks.   Every State Party should be doing this out of respect for the humanitarian spirit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, but also because of their obligation to do so under Article 21.

Moreover, we encourage all States Parties to elaborate their views on certain important matters related to interpretation and implementation of the convention:

- Any intentional or deliberate assistance with activities banned by the convention should be regarded as strictly prohibited, including during joint military operations with states not party;
- Any transit of cluster munitions by a state not party across the territory of a State Party should be seen as prohibited;
- Any foreign stockpiling of cluster munitions by non-signatories in the territory of a state party should be seen as prohibited by the convention;
- Any direct or indirect investment in producers of cluster munitions should be considered prohibited by the convention.

Cluster Munition Monitor shows how dozens of States Parties have indicated their agreement with these interpretations of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, while a handful have taken alternative positions. Many States Parties still have not said anything about these key issues of concern, which are relevant to ensuring compliance.

The Cluster Munition Coalition stands ready to assist States Parties facing compliance challenges, through our members around the world, in cooperation with States Parties, UN agencies, the ICRC, and other international organizations. 2018 will be the 10th anniversary of this life-saving treaty and that should be reason for all of us to re-double our efforts to increase compliance with all elements of the treaty, as well as, strengthening the treaty's norm by condemning any and all use.

Thank you, Mr. President.