Thank you Madam President.

The Cluster Munition Coalition would like to thank Norway, and Lebanon before them, for their tireless efforts to establish an Implementation Support Unit for the Convention. The CMC has always encouraged States Parties to quickly establish an ISU, which would play an essential role in strengthening and expanding the Convention’s impact.

It is not the CMC’s role to put forward a view about funding models for the ISU as we are not a contributor. We would simply like to express our sincere hope that states will manage to bridge their differences quickly, and we look forward to working with a permanent ISU that will be funded in a sustainable manner in the near future. We also look forward to the day when we can put these lengthy procedural discussions behind us and focus on the important substantive issues of the Convention.

In the meantime, and whatever the outcome of this discussion, the CMC would like to express our appreciation for the UNDP’s expertise and hard work since the early days of the Convention. We are grateful for their promotion of a collaborative and transparent atmosphere within the Convention, including their unwavering support for the active participation of civil society.

In terms of the work plan for the coming year, we welcome Costa Rica’s offer to host the next MSP and look forward to working closely with them on its preparation.

We would also like to thank the current coordinators for the significant contributions they have made to the Convention over the past year or two, as well as the new coordinators for taking on their leadership roles. We hope to continue our close working relationship with the new and continuing members of the Coordinating Committee in the coming year.

Lastly, on the intersessional meetings in 2014, we understand they will take place during the same week as the Mine Ban Treaty meetings. We hope more states will take advantage of this arrangement to participate in both meetings so that expertise can be shared among a wider community, and states that are not yet party to both can learn more about the other convention.

Thank you Madam President.