The Honorable Joseph Kabila
President of the Democratic Republic of Congo
Palais de la Nation
Avenue Tshatshi,
Kinshasa Gombe

Cc:
H.E. Raymond Tshibanda
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Democratic Republic of Congo
Boulevard du Palais de la Nation, Kinshasa

4 April 2016

Re: Convention on Cluster Munitions

Your Excellency President Kabila,

On behalf of the Cluster Munition Coalition, an international civil society campaign, we are writing to call on the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We appreciate the Democratic Republic of Congo’s active participation in the Oslo Process that created the Convention on Cluster Munitions, a Convention that the Democratic Republic of Congo was quick to sign by 2009. However, eight years have passed since that signature – it is high time to complete the commitment by ratifying.

Cluster munitions have killed and injured thousands of civilians during the last 70 years and continue to do so today. As a country that has experienced the horror of cluster munitions, there is no doubt that the Democratic Republic of Congo is well aware that cluster munitions are indiscriminate and unreliable weapons, both at the time of use and long afterwards, causing major humanitarian problems and risks to civilians. This is clearly evident from the ongoing use of cluster munitions in Syria and Yemen where over 95% of cluster munitions casualties have been civilians. It is this unacceptable harm that the Convention on Cluster Munitions was created to prevent.

We welcome the steps taken towards ratification, such as approval of the ratification legislation for the convention in November 2013. The Democratic Republic of Congo’s support for the 2015 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/54 in favor of the total ban on cluster munitions shows your strong stance against these indiscriminate weapons.

118 countries have joined the global ban including 80% of the African countries, in other words, 43 of 54 African countries have joined the Convention, demonstrating Africa’s strong commitment for a region free of cluster munitions.
We firmly believe that ratification by the Democratic Republic of Congo will strengthen the global ban against cluster munitions and save lives by helping the international community to eradicate these weapons and bring us one step closer to a cluster munition-free Africa and a cluster munition-free world.

We look forward to welcoming the Democratic Republic of Congo as a State Party at the 6th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions that will take place from 5 to 7 September 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.

We thank you in advance for your positive response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Megan Burke  
Director  
Cluster Munition Coalition  
Geneva, Switzerland

Francky Miantuala  
Coordinator  
Campagne congolaise pour interdire les mines  
Kinshasa, DR Congo

The following campaigns endorse this letter:

Jody Williams, the 1997 Nobel Laureate

Dr. Shirin Ebadi, the 2003 Nobel Peace Laureate

Branislav Kapetanovic, Cluster Munition Coalition Ambassador

Margaret Arach Orech, International Campaign to Ban Landmines Ambassador

Aisha Saeed, Yemen Mine Awareness Association (YMAA) – Yemen

Aklavon Kokou Félix, CRESED – Togo

Anna Jones, Acting National Network Coordinator (WANEP) – The Gambia

Ayman Sorour, PROTECTION Against Armaments – Egypt/MENA

Balkrishna Kurvey, Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines & Cluster Munitions – India

Bekele Gonfa, Survivors Recovery and Rehabilitation Organization (SRaRO) – Ethiopia

Calza Bini Arianna, Gender and Mine Action Program (GMAP) - Switzerland
Christiane Matabaro, Association Nationale des Survivants de mine et Défense des Intérêts des Victimes – **RD Congo**

Col. Thant Zin, Humanitarian Mine Action Initiative (HMAI) – **Myanmar/Burma**

Dahir Abdirahman, Somalia Coalition to Ban Landmines (SOCBAL) – **Somalia**

Dejan Ivanovic, Assistance Advocacy Access – **Serbia**

Eric NIRAGIRA, Training Centre for Development of Ex-Combatants (CEDAC) – **Burundi**

Eugene Mussolino, Association of Landmine Survivors and Amputees of Rwanda (ALSAR) – **Rwanda**

Folade Mutota, Caribbean Coalition for Development and the Reduction of Armed Violence (CDRAV) – Trinidad and **Tobago/CARICOM**

Fred Lubang, Nonviolence International **Southeast Asia**

Gabriel Francisco Silva, Dhesarme - Brazilian Action for Humanitarian Disarmament - **Brazil**

Gassama Mamady, Association Senegalaise des Victimes de Mines (ASVM) – **Sénégal**

Geoffrey Duke, South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms (SSANSA) – **South Sudan**

Giuseppe Schiavello, Italian Campaign Against Landmines (CICM) – **Italy**

Hafiz Safikhanov, Azerbaijan Campaign to Ban Landmines (AzCBL) – **Azerbaijan**

Hector Guerra, Mexico Campaign to Ban Cluster Munitions – **Mexico**

Islamuddin Mohammady, Afghan Landmine Survivors Organization (ALSO) – **Afghanistan**

James Ninrew, Assistance Mission for Africa (AMA) – **South Sudan**

Kimberley McCosker, Safe Ground – **Australia**

Leila Alikarami, the Centre for Supporters of Human Rights (CSHR) – **Iran/UK**

Luis S. Wamusse, Rede Para Assistência as Vitimas de Minas (RAVIM) – **Mozambique**
Maia Buchukuri, Georgian Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions – Georgia
Margaret Arach Orech Ugandan Landmine Survivor Association (ULSA) – Uganda
Moaffak Alkhfaji, Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations (IADO) – Iraq
Mohammed Barakat, Disabled Without Borders Organization – Palestine
Muteber Öğreten, the Initiative for a Mine Free Turkey – Turkey
Neil Mander, Engineers for Social Responsibility Inc. – New Zealand
Nora Sheets, WVCBL, West Virginia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Bombs/PSALM, Students Against Landmines and Cluster Bombs – USA
Oliver Jungjohann, Ju Care Kinderhilfe – Germany
Pamela Velásquez and Manuel Baquedano, IEP Chilean Campaign – Chile
Purna Shova Chitrakar, Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines (NCBL) – Nepal
Raza Shah Khan Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO) – Pakistan
Richard MacCormac, DanChurchAid (DCA) – Denmark
Saifuddin Nizami, Community Center for Disabled (CCD) – Afghanistan
Sak Sopheak, Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions/JRS – Cambodia
Sergio Aranibar Araya, Agrupación de Victimas de Minas y Municiones de - Chile
Soksai Sengvongkham, Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE) – Lao PDR
Suzanne Oosterwijk, PAX – the Netherlands
Toshihiro SHIMIZU, Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines – Japan
Vidy Abhayagunawardena, Sri Lanka Campaign to Ban Landmines (SLCBL) – Sri Lanka