

**STATEMENT OF COLOMBIA DURING THE CLOSING SEGMENT  
BERLIN CONFERENCE ON THE DESTRUCTION OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

June 26, 2009

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Colombia would like to reiterate our gratitude to the Governments of Germany and Norway for taking the initiative to convene this meeting. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Government of Laos PDR for offering to host the First Meeting of States Parties of the Cluster Munitions Convention in 2010. We commend the efforts by Laos PDR in preparing for this important event.

We congratulate Indonesia and Chile for hosting regional meetings that will facilitate the entry into force of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Yesterday, the delegation shared the national efforts related to Article 3 of the Convention, "Stockpile Destruction". I would like to emphasize the importance of international cooperation and assistance, one of the pillars of this instrument. Cooperation and assistance can take shape in many ways, including South-South cooperation, and it is important that we all contribute to fulfill this mandate.

Finally, Colombia is at the beginning stage of the ratification process of this international instrument. It is a lengthy process but we remained committed with the spirit and principles of the Convention to avoid the humanitarian impact caused by cluster munitions.

Thank you Mr. Chairman