Statement by

Ms. Alison Kelly
Head of the Delegation of Ireland

To introduce draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.16 entitled “Convention on Cluster Munitions”

United Nations General Assembly
First Committee Conventional Weapons Debate

New York, 19 October 2009

Check against delivery
Mr. Chairman,

As it is the first time that Ireland takes the floor at this year’s session, allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election, and to assure you of my delegation’s full support.

I take the floor to introduce the draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.16, entitled “Convention on Cluster Munitions”. As the Committee will be aware, the Convention on Cluster Munitions was adopted in Dublin on 30 May 2008 and opened for signature in Oslo on 3 December 2008. As of today, the Convention has been signed by [100] States and ratified by [23]. It will enter into force six months after the thirtieth ratification.

The United Nations Secretary-General is the depositary of the Convention, and the UN was closely associated with its development. The Convention assigns various administrative tasks to the United Nations, and to this end the General Assembly adopted last year resolution 63/71, which requested the Secretary-General “to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be necessary to fulfil the tasks entrusted to him by the Convention on Cluster Munitions”. My delegation was very pleased that this resolution was adopted without a vote.

The government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, has generously offered to host the first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, which must take place within one year after the Convention’s entry into force. This is particularly appropriate, as Laos is more affected by cluster munitions than any other country in the world.

Therefore, Ireland and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic have jointly presented to the Committee for its consideration a draft resolution, which has been given the number L.16. The resolution is short and simple, its only purpose being to place on record the kind offer of Laos to host the first Meeting of States Parties, and to request the Secretary-General, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the First Meeting of States Parties following the Convention’s entry into force.

The resolution is procedural in nature. As last year’s resolution already requested the Secretary-General to perform all administrative tasks assigned to the United Nations under the Convention, this draft does not seek to impose any additional tasks on the United Nations. As the costs of meetings are to be borne by States Parties to the Convention, neither does the resolution impose any financial burden on the organization.

It is our hope that the Committee will be able to adopt this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.