Declaration by Signatories to Geneva Call’s Deeds of Commitment

*Concerned* that armed conflicts continue to cause enormous suffering to the civilian population worldwide, including among the most vulnerable, in particular children;

*Recognizing* the responsibility of all parties to armed conflict to both respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian norms;

*Stressing* that awareness and ownership of international humanitarian norms by all parties to armed conflict are critical in efforts to improve compliance;

*Noting* that humanitarian engagement with parties to armed conflict does not affect their legal status;

*Recalling* declarations adopted by Signatories to Geneva Call’s Deed of Commitment at the First and Second Meeting of Signatories in 2004 and 2009;

We, the Signatories to the Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action, the Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict and the Deed of Commitment for the Prohibition of Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict and Towards the Elimination of Gender Discrimination,

- *Commend* the increased adherence to the Deeds of Commitment, as well as the progress in their implementation since the Second Meeting of Signatories;

- *Reaffirm* our commitment to effectively implement the Deeds of Commitment and to comply fully with their provisions;

- *Call on* States to respect and adhere to international humanitarian norms;

- *Express our appreciation* to Geneva Call for its efforts in monitoring and supporting the implementation of the Deeds of Commitment and *call upon* States, international organisations and other donors to support such efforts;

- *Call upon* specialized organizations to increase support for humanitarian mine action, child protection and assistance to victims of sexual violence, including in areas under our control or where we operate;

- *Raise* concerns over alleged violations of the Deeds of Commitment and *urge* signatories concerned to take appropriate measures to ensure compliance and to prevent violations;

- *Undertake* to increase efforts to protect civilians from the harm caused by explosive weapons, to promote greater gender equality and women participation in decision-making processes and to protect students, teachers, schools and other education facilities from attack and the effects of military operations;

- *Take into consideration* the “Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict” and *appreciate* that the Guidelines have recognised armed non-state actors as stakeholders;

- *Commit* to continue to actively promote Geneva Call’s Deeds of Commitment among non-signatory armed non-State actors and *encourage* them to sign the different Deeds of Commitment or undertake similar commitments as soon as possible.