Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the UN High Commissioner on the impact of casualty recording on the promotion and protection of human rights. The report finds that casualty recording is effective at focusing the attention of the international community on the human cost of violence, serving as a basis for effective decision-making and devising appropriate responses to civilian harm. For these reasons, we strongly support the recommendations of this report towards strengthening mechanisms and processes for casualty recording.

The report notes that authoritative statistics from the OHCHR have documented incidents of conflict-related violence that caused civilian deaths and injuries in Yemen and that the period of the truce resulted in significantly fewer civilian casualties. Notably, before the truce, the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project found that casualties nearly doubled in the four months following the end of the mandate of the UN Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen, tasked by this Council, with carrying out comprehensive investigations into all alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed since September 2014.

Amnesty International has evidence of warring parties in Yemen deploying indiscriminate landmines and cluster bombs, endangering civilians caught in shifting frontlines. As this report notes, three quarters of all civilian casualties from mines and unexploded ordnance recorded by OHCHR in the country have been children.

Amnesty International condemns the continued failure of all parties to the conflict in Yemen to ensure justice and access to effective remedies for victims and survivors of violations of international law committed since the outbreak of the conflict. We urge this Council to ensure the prompt establishment of an international accountability mechanism to address the accountability gap and deter further international crimes.

Thank you, Mr. President.