

Speech by the Chair Person of the South Sudan Demining Authority

Brigadier Barach Jurkuch Barach

at

**Second Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on Cluster
Munitions,**

also known as

2 MSP CCM

Beirut Lebanon 12-16 September 2011

Your Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to address you on behalf of the South Sudan Demining Authority, or SSDA.

I must first thank our hosts the Government of Lebanon and the organizers of the 2MSP for their support in arranging this conference in this wonderful city that has so much history both recent and ancient. I believe that it is appropriate that the 2 MSP be held in an affected country and no better than Lebanon, the country who's suffering from cluster munitions was probably the tipping point to make this treaty happen and a great follow on from Laos, the most affected.

I must also thank the United Nations, as it is your continued effort to bring together donors, beneficiary countries and support our efforts in affected countries that remains a crucial part of implementation of the Oslo Convention. Despite all this talk about 'programme maturity', some countries and territories

still have no end in sight for the landmine problem and will continue to lean on international support.

When I last addresses many of you at the Intercessional meeting for the Antipersonnel Landmine Treaty in Geneva I came as part of a single delegation from Sudan, today I stand here as the representative of the newest member state of the United Nations and the Newest country in the world. The Republic of South Sudan wishes to work with the States Parties and move towards signing this treaty and ratification of it, with the support of our neighbour's in the south who have signed we especially wish to invite our brothers in the East, West & North to join us in this journey.

So, to our dear friends in east Africa and our brothers in the North, East & West, I ask you; can we make this journey together?

Now let me say a few words about the situation in South Sudan. As you may well have heard, we continue to suffer conflict and instability in our country and as such the threat from cluster munitions and mines is on going, and that we not only have to deal with the old problems, but new are being brought on us.

These threats have not and are not being created by the Sudan People's Liberation Army, which is in the process of being trained as a regular force, but by militias and armed groups who wish to harm our new democracy. South Sudan is not a user or producer of cluster munitions, but is a victim, as such we

call on all parties in the region to use their influence to ensure that cluster munitions not be used along with landmines by the parties who oppose our new state but come and make peace and use the power of peace to correct their differences with us.

So on this day, I ask you all in the most respectful terms to understand the difficult process that our nation is undergoing. We need the continued support of the United Nations, and the international agencies such as Norwegian People's Aid and Mines Advisory Group who have walked our path through peace and war. Of course we need the continued support of donors who have been both patient and kind. Kind because they have not forgotten South Sudan, patient because we too live in the frustrations associated with nation building from scratch.

As a result I ask you to bear with us as we forge our new nation on the principles of democracy, trust, honour and freedom, we do intend to join the CCM, but have many pressing issues to address not least the need to capacity build all departments of government and the judiciary. So in summary we will sign, but help us and allow us to sign with the knowledge that we will have the capacity to implement the treaty within the 10 years allowed under article 4.

Thank you and god bless.