

UGANDA'S STATEMENT ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTING THE CCM PRESENTED AT THE SECOND MEETING OF STATE PARTIES (12TH - 16TH SEPTEMBER 2011)

Mr. / Madame President, the Ugandan delegation attending this Meeting joins other peace loving States to congratulate Lebanon for having been elected to the Presidency of the CCM. We also take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of Lebanon for having organised and hosted the Second Meeting of States Parties to the CCM. We received a warm welcome to Lebanon and we are continuing to enjoy the hospitality of the Lebanese people, and a secure and peaceful environment.

Uganda is convinced that the choice of Beirut as the venue for this landmark meeting was not by accident; Lebanon has been a victim of the use of cluster munitions on her territory and her people and is playing a commendable role in the mobilization of international support to implement this important treaty to stop the manufacturing, stockpiling, transfer and use of cluster munitions.

Mr. /Madame President, on Monday this week participants of this meeting visited South Lebanon and saw Lebanon's beautiful hills that were contaminated by cluster munitions—memories of that scenery and the stories told by the victims shall never fade from our minds.

Mr. /Madame President, permit me to restate that Uganda believes that attaining national, regional and global peace and security is a pre—requisite to development and therefore relentlessly works to promote this virtue in all her national and foreign policies. We also wish to reiterate our position in previous meetings that Uganda has never manufactured, acquired, transferred or used cluster munitions. Uganda's participation in the CCM process is solely based on her firm belief that universalisation of the CCM is a desired goal towards attaining lasting international peace and security. Uganda is deeply concerned that at this stage of human development, some family members of the United Nations who are not party to this Convention, continue to manufacture, transfer, stockpile, and use cluster munitions in disregard of the

international humanitarian law principles of humanity, distinction and limitation during armed conflict.

Mr. /Madame President, it is Uganda's wish that all States embrace the CCM process and become parties to the CCM in order to pave way for sustainable economic, social and political development for all humanity.

Mr. /Madame President, it is in this spirit that Uganda signed the CCM at Oslo in Dec 2008. Prior to the signing ceremony; Uganda hosted a Regional Africa Meeting in Kampala with an objective of mobilising all African States to be party to the CCM; the meeting adopted the landmark "*Kampala Action Plan on Cluster Munitions*".

Mr. /Madame President, Uganda has, however, not yet ratified the CCM but is taking the following measures towards the ratification of the CCM—

- a. It has revamped the National Humanitarian Law Committee, which is housed in the Office of the Prime Minister—the Committee brings together all stakeholders in the international humanitarian law conventions and oversees the implementation of Uganda's undertakings under all those treaties—I am a Member of that Committee, and my presence in this meeting amplifies the importance my country attaches to the CCM.
- b. Each of the humanitarian law treaties not yet ratified by the country has been assigned to Ministries with a lead stake in it in order to expedite the process of implementing Uganda's undertaking in respect of the treaty in question—the ratification process of the CCM is championed by the Ministry of Defence, which is represented in this Meeting.
- c. We are holding stakeholders consultation meetings within the country taking on board the civil society, the academia, and local and international NGOs and humanitarian agencies to enable consensus building on the way forward on the CCM.
- d. We have already prepared a Cabinet Memorandum to justify to Cabinet the need to ratify the CCM since the Convention shall be ratified by Cabinet—the ratification process shall be concluded once national consultations with key stakeholders in the CCM have been completed—this will be soon.

Mr. /Madame President, alongside the ratification process, Uganda has started drafting a Bill for the Domestication of the CCM so that once the Government of the Republic of Uganda ratifies the Convention, the domestication process should not be unduly delayed because we are aware that we are relatively behind the schedule of our undertakings in the previous meetings.

Uganda shall remain open and ready to collaborate and consult other State Parties in regard to the ratification and any other process concerning the CCM. We fully support of the principles in the Draft Beirut Declaration and we are warming up to adopt the Final Declaration at the end of the Meeting.

Lastly Mr. /Madame President permit me to restate that in a bid to contribute towards international peace and security, Uganda is playing a pivotal role in the peace building process in Somalia and it is in the same spirit, desirous to support the implementation of the Cluster Munitions Treaty.

I thank you.

Lt Col Godard Busingye

HEAD OF DELEGATION

**DIRECTOR FOREIGN LIAISON, CHIEFTAINCY OF LEGAL SERVICES, MINISTRY
OF DEFENCE**

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