

STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO DURING ACCRA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Mr Chairman, Excellences', distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Allow me Mr Chairman on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho to pass our vote of thanks to the government of the Republic of Ghana for hosting this important conference which marks another step towards the world free of cluster munitions. We also like to pass our appreciation to the support provided by the Kingdom of Norway and UNDP which made this conference a reality.

Mr Chairman,

Lesotho is proud to participate in this crucial humanitarian conference as a State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Convention was signed by Lesotho on the 3rd December 2008 and ratified on the 28th May 2010.

Lesotho is well aware of an unacceptable danger caused by cluster munitions, both during and after hostilities. Cluster munitions are indiscriminate and disproportionate.

Mr Chairman,

Lesotho might not have experienced the presence of cluster munitions within her borders but we have joined hands with the International

community to show our solidarity and support to a call for the world free of cluster munitions.

We support wholeheartedly all valuable and concerted efforts made by State Parties and International Partners to make implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions a success.

Mr Chairman

We are pleased to announce that Lesotho has submitted its transparency report to the Secretary General of the United Nations on the 29 August, 2011 in compliance with Article 7 of the Convention. The Kingdom of Lesotho is currently working tirelessly on developing a national law which will domesticate CCM by banning the use of cluster munitions, their production, transfer and stockpile. In this regard the Ministry of Defence and National Security has been tasked to spearhead the process of developing a domestic law. The Ministry of Defence has established an IHL committee which deals with all issues relating to IHL. The IHL committee has already started drafting all the legal documents which will be taken to Cabinet for approval.

It must be however, be noted that the Kingdom of Lesotho went for general elections on the 26 may 2012. The challenges caused by the general elections in enacting a new law cannot be overstated.

Mr Chairman

Lesotho is enacting this law to reiterate her position of supporting all efforts which will make Africa and the world free of cluster munitions.

It is apparent therefore, that for a CCM to be a success, it must be universal. Mr Chairman, allow me therefore, on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho to call upon all states which are not yet parties to the Cluster Munitions Convention to join us and the rest of the international community in the fight against humanitarian crisis caused by Cluster Munitions.

I thank you for your attention.

DELIVERED BY Mr. Toka Mashoai

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations