



## **REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

### **ANGOLA STATEMENT AT ACCRA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS 28-29 MAY 2012, ACCRA – GHANA**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, on behalf of the Angolan Government, I would like to congratulate the Government and People of Ghana for hosting this highly important Regional Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as well as the hospitality expressed since our arrival.

This event comes in the right time, as the continent needs to combine efforts to tackle the problem of cluster bombs. It is well known that many African states were affected by landmines, unexploded ordnances, ERWs and cluster munitions due to armed conflicts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Angola in particular, suffered badly for over 30 years of civil conflict, which apart from the destruction of social and economic infrastructure, resulted in the contamination of most of the country. Angola is part of the Mine Ban Treaty and has also signed the CCM in 2008, just pending its ratification, which will be done soon. As sign of it, the National Parliament has sat with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to expedite the ratification process. For the sake of information, Angola had celebrated 10 years of peace on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Chair

Angola has fully complied with article 4 of the Ottawa Convention, thus having destroyed all stockpiled anti-personnel landmines under its jurisdiction and now in phase of clearing all contaminated areas. Cluster munitions exist and kill and

maim indiscriminately, especially children who are easily attracted by this ordnance. The harmonization of policies among African states is definitely a key step towards an effective implementation of national measures to tackle the problem.

At regional level (SADC), Angola is also striving for the reactivation of its Technical Sub Sub-committees for mine action to better synchronize measures among the affected countries. Victim Assistance should always be given a priority during the planning processes. For this reason, the Government of Angola has passed two important bills this year alone, one, on the protection of people with disability; on 26th January, the national policy for People with Disability, as well as its strategies and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May a Draft Bill has been passed for People with the Disability.

Another effort envisaged by the Angolan Government aims at establishing pertinent guidelines to ensure assistance to this target group in the areas of health, psychological support, economic re-integration and reinforcement of the multi-sectoral coordination. It is also important to note, that the National Mine Action Authority (CNIDAH) as from 2010, initiated the registration of all victims of landmines, UXOs, Cluster Munitions in 5 provinces.

Finally Mr. Chair,

Angola truly hopes that the universalization strategies and deliberations produced in this meeting will be as comprehensive as possible to all African states affected by cluster munitions, and provide an even clearer roadmap to enable countries implement the Treaty obligations.

Thank You for Your Attention!