

Regional Conference on the Universalisation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Accra Ghana, 28- 30 May 2012

Monday 28 May 2012

Universalisation of the CCM – Statement by Mauritius

Up to now, the Republic of Mauritius has not signed and ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions but Mauritius does not use, produce, transfer and stockpile cluster munitions.

It is important to stress that as a strong supporter of the International Humanitarian Law, the Government of Mauritius has since October 2001, set up a National Humanitarian Law Committee (NHLC) under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office. The National Humanitarian Law Committee, which is chaired by the Senior Chief Executive of the Prime Minister's Office, meets every two to three months.

The role of the NHLC is to advise and assist Government in implementing and spreading knowledge of International Humanitarian Law Instruments to which Mauritius is a party. It has further, to advise on any new legislation, or changes to existing legislation, needed to ensure compliance with these instruments.

As such, Mauritius has signed and ratified most of the IHL instruments. The Biological Weapons Conventions, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the 1972 Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of the Use of Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their destruction have not only been signed and ratified but domestic legislations have also been enacted.

The 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain conventional Weapons and its Protocols have been acceded to and draft bills are under consideration.

Likewise, the issue of signing and ratifying the Convention on Cluster Munitions is closely followed and monitored by the National Humanitarian Law Committee and a policy decision will be taken after examination of all the implications, subject to Government approval.