

**CCM Statement by South Africa at the Accra Regional Conference,  
Ghana 2012**

**UNIVERSALISATION**

Thank you very much Mr Chairperson

At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the Government of Ghana for the invitation to and important African Regional Conference on Universalisation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We would also like to thank you for your warm hospitality extended to my delegation in this beautiful city of Accra. I would like to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr Chairperson

South Africa is concerned about the threat posed by cluster munitions. As a Signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), South Africa is fully committed to the implementation of all its provisions. My country will continue to play an active role in the work of the Convention as it is our conviction that it represents a landmark humanitarian disarmament. As a former producer of cluster munitions, we believe that these weapons have not only become obsolete as weapons of modern warfare, but that their recent use in conflicts have shown them to cause unacceptable harm to civilians, even long after the cessation of active hostilities.

Mr Chairperson

With regards to ratification, I would like to inform this meeting that the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation has prepared a draft Cabinet Memorandum for presentation of the proposed ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions to the pertinent statutory bodies such as

the International Cooperation, Trade and Security Cluster (ICTS), Cabinet, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee, and select Government Departments, in line with South Africa's commitment to implement the principles that underpin International Humanitarian Law.

At present, the draft Cabinet Memorandum is with the Ministry of Defence in order to obtain the latter's comments on the draft Cabinet Memorandum before it can be processed further. We hope that this process will be completed in next coming months. In this connection, we welcome the steady progress that has been made regarding an increase in the number of ratifications. We should redouble our efforts to convince and bring those that have not yet acceded to the Convention in particular the big users and producers of cluster munitions.

Finally Mr Chairperson, South Africa will continue to play its role in partnership with others towards the establishment of a truly cluster munitions free world.

I thank you