



STATEMENT BY BRIG.(Rtd) MODIBO LESLIE LYMON, COMMISSIONER, SIERRA LEONE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SMALL ARMS (SLeNCSA)

GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

AT THE CONFERENCE ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM) LOME, TOGO 22-23 MAY,2013.

Mr. Chairman, Representatives of associated UN Organizations, Bodies and Programmes to the Convention, Representatives of State Parties to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munition, Representatives of International NGOs other members of the High Table, ladies and gentlemen.

I bring you greetings from Sierra Leone which is one of the four countries that Signed and ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway on the 3rd of December,2008. Subsequently, she was among the first 30 ratifications that triggered entry into force of the Convention on the 1st of August, 2010.

Mr Chairman, Sierra Leone participated in the negotiations on the CCM in May, 2008 in Dublin, Ireland, where she formally adopted the Convention and expressed satisfaction with the text and conference outcome.

My Country has continued to engage in the work of the Convention. She attended the Berlin Conference on the destruction of Cluster Munitions in June, 2009 and the International Conference on Cluster Munitions in Santiago, Chile in June,2010.

Sierra Leone is a party to the Mine Ban Treaty and also Party to the Convention On Conventional Weapons and its Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

Mr Chairman, my Country has never used, produced transferred or Stockpiled Cluster Munitions.

Sierra Leone Condemns in the strongest terms the previous, recent and any further use of Cluster Munitions and we reaffirm that Cluster Munitions are Internationally prohibited by the convention and Contrary to its spirit.

Mr Chairman, Sierra Leone has clearly established a National Committee for the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law Treaties since 2012 through the Support both financial and moral of the ICRC and Red Cross Society.

As I speak to you now, the Committee after reviewing the draft legislations prepared by New Zealand and the ICRC, has recommended the ICRC draft which is a preferred option for Sierra Leone since we are a common Law State. Before I departed home for this Seminar, the Attorney General's Office has done a final draft for the Legislation to domesticate CCM, hopefully before the Lusaka Programme.

My country realizes the implications of the objectives of this Conference and remains deeply concerned that Cluster Munitions continue to be used by some countries that are not party to the Convention, causing untold suffering to innocent civilians. It is our shared responsibility to restore human dignity to these vulnerable members of our societies and concentrate our resources towards economic and social development.

Mr Chairman, the Government of President Ernest Bai Koroma remains fully committed to an International Ban on Cluster Munitions and reaffirms its commitment to the Universalization of the Convention with promise to work with other countries to promote Universalization .

Sierra Leone commends the Governments of Togo, Ghana and Zambia for Co-operating to organize this Seminar and the Government and people of Norway and the UNDP for sponsoring and funding this Regional Seminar.

I thank you all.