

1. Thank you Mr Chairman for giving me the floor.
2. Let me at the outset congratulate the Government of Togo for hosting and inviting Zimbabwe to participate in the African Regional Seminar on the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the other organizers of the Conference- the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of Zambia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the financial support extended by the Government of Norway. Zimbabwe appreciate the invaluable work being conducted by Cluster Munition Coalition.
3. I would like to reiterate that Zimbabwe is fully committed to the objectives of international disarmament and arms control measures and international humanitarian instruments. This is exemplified by our ratification of a number of disarmament related treaties such as the Chemical Weapons Convention, Biological Weapons Convention, the Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, just to mention a few.
4. With regard to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Government of Zimbabwe has been seriously considering the ratification of this important humanitarian instrument after having recently conducted a comprehensive review of international instruments for which we are both a State Party and not. However, for the past two years, the Zimbabwe Government and Parliamentary efforts have been painstakingly focused on coming up with a new supreme law, the new constitution, for the country.
5. As we speak, the Government is busy aligning other pieces of legislations to the new Constitution adopted recently to pave way for harmonized elections to be held in the second half of this year.
6. The ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions will undoubtedly be under the consideration of the new Parliament as the current one will be dissolved on 29 June 2013.
7. Zimbabwe is delighted that the 4th Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions will be held in our region- a development which will certainly amplify the importance of the Convention in our region. Zimbabwe welcomes the leadership role being played by our comrades across the Zambezi!
8. I thank you!