

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA STATUS WITH REGARDS TO**  
**THE 2008 CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS AT THE 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MSP FROM 4-6 SEPT,2017**

- The President of the Convention on Cluster munitions
- States Parties
- Observer States
- Intergovernmental organization
- Non Governmental organization
- All Protocols respectfully observed

It is indeed my singular honor and privilege to represent The Gambia Government through my Ministry of Defence to deliver the country's status for the Ratification Processes to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and also to be given the opportunity to give a statement at the Seventh Meeting of States Parties 7MSP

The Gambia signed the CCM on 3<sup>rd</sup> December,2008 expressing its intension to move towards ratification in the near future. However, The Gambia yet to ratify the Convention as a result of several constraints as common in most countries.

The delay of the ratification of the Convention was associated with political unwillingness at the time. Although the Gambia does not manufacture, stockpile nor it is affected by the use of Cluster Munitions.

As the Ministry of Defence is the custodian of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, its senior Officials attended most of the Universalisation and Ratification Seminars and submitted back to Office Reports which suffers bureaucratic bottleneck overtime. Notwithstanding, a CCM Taskforce was established and coordinated by one local NGO in 2015\_ to be more specific WANEP, which was a supplementary efforts to the National Custodian of the Convention. The Taskforce includes the Judiciary, the National Assembly and the Ministries of Defence, Justice and the Interior, just to mention few. They, in several occasions stocked in continuing the process as mentioned earlier.

Mr President

I am pleased to note that with the New Political dispensation in the Gambia I can assure this august gathering that there is a strong political will and all necessary steps are taken towards ratification of the Convention before the end of the year in order to contribute fulfilling the opportunity of African States to be one of the first Region to declare free Cluster Munitions in the Globe, the Addis Ababa comments on Universalisation and implementation of the Conventions as well as the Dubrovnik Action Plan target in 2020

The Ratification processes are; Positive Legal advice was obtained from the Ministry of Justice on the Convention and approval from Cabinet and copies are to distributed to the National Assembly for ratification. Hopefully by return to the Gambia a date will be chosen for the ratification Process.

Thank you Mr President