

The Accra Universalization Action Plan

African States have played an instrumental role in supporting a ban on cluster munitions and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Further to this end, representatives of 34 African States¹ gathered in Accra, Ghana, 28-29 May 2012, for the Accra Regional Conference on the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions to develop *the Accra Universalization Action Plan* with the ultimate aim to attain a cluster munitions free Africa with universal adherence to the CCM. In line with this, States expressed their support for joint efforts in the following actions in line with the Vientiane Action Plan:

Full universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

- ✦ States not yet party are encouraged to take all necessary steps to ratify or otherwise accede to the Convention if possible before the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) that will take place in Oslo, Norway, 11-14 September 2012.
- ✦ States parties to the Convention agreed to encourage and support States not yet party to become States parties as soon as possible, and where possible before the 3MSP and in the interim work in support of States not yet party to express their support for a ban on cluster munitions and for becoming a party to the CCM.

Promotion of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

- ✦ States parties in line with the positive obligations contained in Article 21 of the CCM, agreed to seize every opportunity to promote the CCM—and its strongest possible implementation, to States that have not yet ratified or acceded, such as through bilateral, sub-regional, regional outreach and multilateral fora including in African Union, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, ICGLR, ECCAS, and the UNGA, etc. States agreed to cooperate with other partners including international organizations and civil society to promote the Convention to States not yet party.
- ✦ States not yet party agreed on the need to raise awareness for, mobilize and popularize the CCM nationally with the aim to encourage the promotion of accession or ratification of the Convention.

Partnerships, Assistance & Cooperation

- ✦ Joining in and affirming Action #1 of the Vientiane Action Plan, all States recognized, and would continue to further develop, the partnerships that underpins the Convention with the aim to cooperate and assist in the further universalization and implementation of the Convention. This may include but is not limited to, partnerships between States parties and States not yet parties, between affected and non-affected states, states and the CMC, the ICRC, the UN system, national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and other interested international and regional organizations, cluster munition victims and their representative organizations, and other civil society organizations. In particular, States agreed to cooperate with States not yet party, to overcome challenges and obstacles to joining the Convention with the aim of ensuring their adherence to the Convention as soon as possible.

Participation

- ✦ States committed to participate in international, regional and national fora including the 3rd and future MSPs and at these events to report on actions taken to promote the Convention and work towards its full adherence. States also agreed to share the outcomes of these meetings with relevant stakeholders and actors nationally including to political leadership at the highest possible level.

National Implementation

- ✦ States parties agreed to work towards the adoption and promulgation of comprehensive national legislation, administrative or other implementing measures, in accordance with Article 9 of the CCM in order to implement all obligations under the Convention.
- ✦ States also agreed to cooperate and share information on the content and application of implementing measures to encourage the development of national measures that supports the strongest possible implementation of the Convention.

¹ Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon (President of 2MSP), Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Norway (President-designate of 3MSP), Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, the CMC, the ICRC, the Foundation for Security and Development in Africa and the Executive Coordination Team from UNDP were present.