



Republic of Ghana

STATEMENT

BY

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ARMS

AT THE

**2nd MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
CLUSTER MUNITION**

Beirut, Lebanon

Tuesday 13th September, 2011

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates and Observers

Allow me join previous speakers to congratulate the Government of Lebanon for the successful hosting of this meeting. We congratulate Dr. Adnan Mansour, Minister of Foreign Affairs for his election to steer our affairs this week. My delegations is grateful for the warm reception, hospitality and support extended to us since our arrival.

We are happy that we are building on the progress made in Laos PDR's Meeting where we laid a solid foundation and gave the process a strong impetus and increased visibility.

Indeed Ghana feels honored to have been part of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (1MSP) which was a defining moment in the life of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Mr. President, Ghana lauds the adoption of the Vientiane Action Plan at the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions as a major achievement in the life of the Convention. What we deemed quite significant was the adoption made under universalization and stockpile destruction. It is gratifying to hear that most of the State Parties who have stocks are destroying them and have shown strong commitment complete the destruction process within the time stipulated in the Convention.

It is also pleasant and encouraging to learn from the Beirut Progress Report that, the Convention has strengthened in its significance as an international humanitarian instrument, and has resulted in an increase in membership of 30%, to as many as 62 State Parties now abiding the Convention and its prohibition against any use of cluster munitions. Although this is very encouraging we still got a lot of work ahead of us. The fact that some countries are still using Cluster Munitions remains a challenge that requires the redoubling of our collective efforts.

Ghana has not suffered any effects of cluster munitions, however she widely shares the concerns of the unacceptable harm caused to civilians by cluster munitions both at the time of their use - due to their wide-area effects - and also the fact that after conflicts unexploded, sub-munitions remain as a lethal hazard to

civilian populations seeking to return to their homes, farms and places of employment. Ghana is therefore committed to contribute to the objective of ending for all time the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions.

Ghana has made steady progress in her domestic legislation and administrative measures to give effect to the Convention. The Attorney General's Department is currently drafting the Bill to be laid before Cabinet and subsequently the Parliament of Ghana for passage into law.

Although Ghana's initial transparency report is due for submission in January 2012, we shall submit it earlier than January 2012.

In conclusion Mr. President, we wish to assure of our commitment at building , and further developing our partnerships with other state parties to provide the Convention with the support essential for its long term implementation and success. In this regard we are favorably disposed to the idea of an implementation support unit howbeit compact and small but effective.

I thank you