



Republic of Ghana



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**OPENING STATEMENT
BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA**

AT THE

**THE FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)**

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

10th SEPTEMBER, 2012



Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of the Ghana Delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 4th Meeting of States Parties and I am confident you will guide our work to a successful conclusion. I assure you of the full support of my delegation. I also take the opportunity to commend Norway for one of the most successful presidencies in the brief history of this Convention.

About a year ago, Ghana was appointed as one of the Co-coordinators on Universalization of the CCM. Over the year, Ghana has worked very closely with Portugal and I would like to express my delegations sincere gratitude for the strong leadership and hard work that Portugal exhibited in this regard.

Mr. President,

Ghana places special value and emphasis on the need for CCM universalization especially in Africa. This we have demonstrated by participating and co-organizing the Lome Regional Conference on the Universalization of the CCM in May this year. The Conference was very successful and produced a very valuable document: the “Lomé Strategy on the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”. The Lomé Conference is an example of fruitful and effective actions

to promote the universalization of the CCM in Africa and is indeed a significant achievement, together with the Lusaka and Accra regional Seminars on CCM Universalization. We support such regional meetings and wish to call for it to be replicated in other regions.

Mr. President,

With the immense contribution of the CMC, ICRC, and the UNDP, Ghana has drafted three different models of Cabinet and Parliamentary briefing Memoranda to assist States considering their accession to the Convention. These models will be applicable to non-affected States, States without stockpiles, States with Stockpiles and Affected States. We wish to announce that, these model Memoranda will be available soon at the CMC, Cluster Convention and the ICRC websites soon.

Mr. President,

In July this year Ghana and Portugal sent joint global demarches to 74 Permanent Missions in Geneva on the CCM Universalization. The joint demarche sought to urge various Missions to raise the issue of the CCM Universalization with their respective authorities. The joint demarche also emphasized that the CCM is a comprehensive instrument, which besides the prohibition of the use, production, transfer, and stockpiling, also provides assistance through international cooperation, to facilitate clearance of contaminated areas and victims' rehabilitation.

We wish to express our disappointment, however, with the reduced number of responses received. I must say only three (3) responses were received; One from Vietnam, simple acknowledging receipt of the letters, and other two from Greece

and Estonia, with additional information on the reasons behind their respective inabilities to accede to the Convention.

Mr. President,

Permit to state that Ghana is very proud of her association to this Convention and will continue to offer her support to its Universalization. On this note, I take the opportunity to welcome the Norwegian delegation as a co-coordinator and do count on their experience gained at the presidency to achieve even more successes. In the past year we made great strides with the inclusion of eight (8) State Parties and hope to achieve more successes with Norway. May I also commend Portugal once again for the good work done in her two terms first with Japan and then with Ghana. Civil Society Groups, notably the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC), the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (ICRC) and others have also played very excellent roles in the cause of the year and more than deserve our commendation. Through their campaigns and networks in all regions of the world they have brought a number of countries onboard and this has contributed enormously to the successes made this year.

Mr. President,

Even though we are not an affected State, we consider that for the sake of all people, that, this weapon has to be taken out of conventional weapons. Every country is responsible in this course, whether they are parties or not to this Convention. In this regard let me also express our deep disapproval of its use in the past and in some ongoing conflicts, in fact we condemn those countries for using banned weapons. This is immoral and must not happen again in the 21st Century, a Century in which all people irrespective of their geographical location or status in society are staking their rights to freedom and aspire to impact

positively on their societies. The possibility to be killed or maimed by unexploded ordinances must be the reason for the continued denial of the aspirations of any person anywhere, and Ghana is ready to help this course. We assure you Mr. President to work with you on the wisely chosen theme on universalization.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we would like to urge all State Parties to the CCM to remain committed to the tenets of this Convention and on the objectives of the Vientiane Declaration. Our enhanced focus can lead us to the desired goal of a world without cluster munitions in the shortest possible time.

I thank you.