

**Statement made by Cesar de Carvalho on Bahalf of Guinea-Bissau onthe  
4MSP of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Lusaka/ Zambia, September  
11, 2013**

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished invited guests**

Let me first of all congratulate Zambia for hosting this important conference, and to thank UNDP and Kingdom of Norway for supporting my participation in this great African event. Guinea-Bissau is a state party of this Convention since 2010, and we actively participated in all negotiation process up to Dublin in May, 2008.

We bring to this convention our long experience from APBT, for this reason it was not difficult to Convince Government and parliament to accede and ratified this Convention. As you may be aware Guinea-Bissau suffered and continues to suffer a lot of consequences of several wars and internal conflicts. We have more than One thousand records of accidents caused by mines, ERW and others explosives devices, for this reason our population is already sensitized for this problem.

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It is true that Guinea-Bissau as a State Party alone cannot address this challenge, we need solidarity of international community, and from others States parties and not parties.

In February 2011 we received one technical assessment mission from UNMAS in Bissau, this mission visited all our Armed Forces facilities and found several Bombs, ammunitions, sub-munitions and ERW stockpiled in very bad conditions.

At end of this mission more than 4.430 KG of these ammunitions were destroyed in total of 705 units, and was found more than 2.755 units of Air Bombs and among them some Cluster Bombs, incendiary Bombs, illuminating Bombs, Air Launched Rocket and others, in approximately 117.823 Kg.

We started our negotiation with UNMAS about our CCM stockpiled destruction throughout an International NGO, but the political situation happened in April last year blocked all our common effort. But, in July 26 this year the Government created an Inter-ministerial commission to prepare our participation in this meeting. This commission was cheered by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, integrated Ministry of Defense, former Combatants and National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI).

The Commission confirmed the existence of Cluster Munitions among our stockpiled Bombs in very bad conditions which may cause some threat for all Bissau's populations if no urgent action is taken. The Government appointed Brig.-General ***Celestino Costa de Carvalho***, Ministry of National Defense as a Head of our Delegation to attend this 4 MSP of CCM. But, unfortunately he had other agent state commitment he had to attend to hence my presence here.

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I am here today on Behalf of Guinea-Bissau Government in the capacity of General Director of Mine Action Coordination Centre, to reaffirm our full commitment and political will to combine our effort with our International partners to destroy all our Stockpiled, not only the Cluster Bombs, but all including some obsoletes Explosives Remnants of War.

Since July last year when UNDP CO decided to stop the support to Mine Action activities in Guinea-Bissau the number of Civil casualties increased in numbers , and in August this year one mortar was injured at the same time Seven boys , aged between 6 to 14 years old.

With this information, we are now in condition to prepare and send to United Nations our first transparency report and we hope that it is time to help us to destroy all these Stockpiled Bombs and at same time to help our armed forced to build the safe ammunition storage facilities around the country, because this is a huge problem we are facing now, is how we can safely store our military goods.

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In conclusion, I would like once again on behalf Guinea-Bissau Population to raise my voice seeking your assistance, because for us this is a pure humanitarian action, we cannot continue to link this action with the political situation in the Country, our rural population, mainly woman and children continue to be victim of this bombs and ERW.

**I thank you all**