



GRENADA

GENERAL STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

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Mr. President,

At the outset, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as President of this significant Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

My delegation would like to place on record our sincere gratitude to you, your Government and the people of Zambia for the warm reception and hospitality extended to us and all of the other delegations present here this week.

I wish to also recognise the Government of Zambia for the great importance and emphasis placed on the Convention on Cluster Munitions over the years.

My delegation assures you of its full cooperation and support over the next four days.

Mr. President, before I continue let me also take this opportunity to acknowledge Ambassador Kongstad and his team for Norway's astute leadership and guidance during its term as president. The dedication and commitment shown by Norway during that period is demonstrable of its genuine concern for the universalization of the Convention and ultimately eliminating the harm caused by cluster munitions.

Let me also express my delegation's gratitude to UNDP for its continued support in ensuring my delegaton's participation at this 4MSP.

Universalization

Mr. President,

Grenada is delighted to witness the steady progress made towards the universalisation of the Convention. Over the last year we have seen an increase in states ratifying and acceding to the Convention and states signaling their intention of becoming States Parties.

Mr. President,

While we appreciate the upsurge in the total number of States Parties, we remain hopeful that a greater number of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States will join this movement to bring to an end the harm caused by cluster bombs. We are confident that the entire CARICOM supports a Convention that prohibits the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions, and which requires states to destroy existing stockpiles of these weapons, clear contaminated areas and assist survivors and affected communities. As much as the political will may be present in the region Mr. President, the lack of legal and bureaucratic capacity to address the process of ratification or accession is a major hinderance.

Mr. President,

At the last intersessional meeting in Geneva my delegation recommended that a meeting should be convened in the region to promote the Convention, raise awareness and trigger a greater movement towards universalization. Mr. President, there is precedence for this approach since a number of regional meetings proved pivotal to CARICOM having a strong, united and effective voice at the just concluded Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) negotiations. We are therefore very hopeful that a meeting will be held in the region shortly to advance the agenda of the Convention resulting in

increased ratification and accession by Member States and a stronger presence at the 5MSP scheduled for 2014 in Costa Rica.

International Cooperation and Assistance

Mr. President,

My country continues to benefit from the kind and generous assistance from Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). Within the next few weeks, NPA will provide training to Grenadian personnel in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

This training would allow Grenadian personnel to effectively respond to the possibility of any future cluster munitions and/or explosive remnants of war exposure.

Mr. President,

You may recall at the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) in Oslo, my delegation formally declared that it had fulfilled all of its obligations under Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Grenada's compliance with Article 4 was primarily due to financial support from the Government of Norway which made it possible for Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to conduct non-technical and technical surveys in Grenada.

Transparency

Mr. President,

In complying with the obligations under Article 7 of the Convention, Grenada submitted its annual transparency report for 2013. Since becoming a State Party, Grenada has submitted all of its annual reports in a timely manner. To this end, my delegation calls upon all states and in particular new States

Parties that have not yet done so to submit their transparency reports as a matter of urgency.

National Implementation Measures

Mr. President,

Grenada continues to make steady strides towards developing national legislation specifically aimed at the implementation of the Convention. Only two days ago our Cabinet considered a submission by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Business seeking the requisite approval for the Attorney General's Chambers to draft legislation that would be later tabled before our Parliament.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation remains fully committed to the universalization of the Convention and the realization of a cluster free world.

Accordingly, Grenada reaffirms its full confidence and trust in your leadership Mr. President and reiterates its continued commitment and support for a successful 4MSP.

I thank you, Mr. President.