



Republic of South Sudan

Fifth Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement by South Sudan

San Jose, 3 September 2014

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Allow me to begin by expressing our appreciation to the Government and the people of Costa Rica for their warm welcome and hosting this 5th MSP in Costa Rica.

Since it is my first time to take the floor, Mr. President, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the 5MSP.

Cluster Munitions poses unimaginable risk to the lives and limbs of innocent people worldwide. South Sudan was born after efforts had already begun to bring this treaty into existence, so we did not have a chance to contribute from the beginning, but I would like to applaud the extraordinary efforts of states, NGOs and civil society that have made this convention a reality.

Wars and battles have never been won through the use of cluster bombs. Use of these weapons has always resulted into indiscriminate killing of people including, civilians women, children and the elderly. Their contamination renders vast lands unusable for settlements and livelihood. South Sudan supports the efforts of all the states to free the world from cluster bombs.

Mr. President, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, South Sudan recognizes these roles and efforts being pursued by the international community in prohibiting cluster bombs. South Sudan is among the countries that are yet to join this convention. However, I would like to bring to your notice that preparations are at an advanced stage for South Sudan to join the convention to ban cluster bombs.

The National Mine Action Authority, the Department that I head is leading efforts of the government of the Republic of South Sudan to join the convention. We have written and met the President of the republic on this matter. We have also engaged relevant government departments including the Ministry of Defence to expedite the process of South Sudan becoming part of this noble convention.

Mr. President, Regarding the report about recent use of cluster bombs in South Sudan; I would like to refer to that as an unfortunate incident. The Government of South Sudan takes that seriously. A joint team comprising of representatives of the government and UNMAS staff have gone to the field to investigate the allegation. The team indeed established that cluster bombs were used. However, at this point investigation efforts could not establish those responsible for the use. We will continue with these efforts and will give an update in subsequent meetings as concrete information becomes available.

Mr. President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would also like to bring to your attention that, South Sudan does not produce nor possess any cluster munitions. And counterparts at UNMAS are well aware of that. And we do not intend to acquire or use cluster bombs.

Finally, I would like to express our support for the objectives of the convention to ban cluster bombs. We will engage constructively to make this treaty a success. Together, we shall free the world from cluster bombs.

Thank You!