

**Statement made by César de Carvalho on Bahalf of Guinea-Bissau on the  
5MSP of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, San José/ Costa Rica,  
September 3, 2014**

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished invited guests**

**Ladies and Gentleman**

Let me first of all congratulate Costa Rica for hosting this important conference, and to thank UNDP and Donors community for supporting my participation in this great disarmament 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.

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

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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.

As I mentioned last year in Lusaka, 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.

But, due to the political situation that we faced since April 2012 up to March this year was not possible to move forward in negotiation process for their destruction.

As you already know we had a very successful general election in last April-May this year and now we have a new Government and new President of Republic in place, and we are ready to restart the negotiation process with our Partners including UN, Donors Community and International NGOs not only for this stockpiled destruction before the First Review Conference next year. But for reactivation of EOD and Battle Area clearance capacity, Victim Assistance, National legislations, financial and technical Support to our Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI) and NGOs.

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentleman**

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 2012 when UNDP CO decided to stop the support to Mine Action activities in Guinea-Bissau the number of civil casualties increased, we still have one accident in each 3 months and 95 % of them were caused by ERW or UXOs.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify that in Guinea-Bissau we don't have any records of the new minefields, our problem is a huge ERW and UXOs Contaminations, including ERW and Cluster Munitions stockpiled.

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentleman**

In conclusion, I would like once again on behalf Guinea-Bissau Government call back all our former partners (UNDP, UNICEF, UNMAS, Donors Community and International NGOs) in this fight against ERW, UXOs and Cluster Munitions.

**I thank you all**