

Statement made by Uganda on the 5th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (5MSP CCM), San Jose, Costa Rica, 1-5 September, 2014.

Mr. President

Uganda would like to thank the Government and the People of Costa Rica for their kind hospitality extended to my delegation and for hosting this meeting on a very important humanitarian issue. We also thank the Organisers and the Secretariat of the Cluster Munitions for providing us with necessary facilities for effective participation in the meeting. I thank the Sponsor for making it possible for us to be here, and for ensuring that this meeting takes place and is well attended.

At this juncture, Uganda would like to extend felicitation to the Government of Zambia for hosting us last year and for steering the Presidency through 2013/2014 successfully.

The Government of the Republic of Uganda, in fulfillment of its Policy for "Respect for international Law and Treaty obligations, particularly the obligations under the convention on Cluster Munitions and, taking into account the statement made at the 3MSP; do recognize the fact that "Uganda has not yet ratified the CCM. But Uganda is taking robust measures back home to ensure that this is done in the not so distant future.

The measures taken so far in the direction of ratification of the convention have been very comprehensive.

Just as it is in most countries, it is a procedural requirement under the laws of Uganda that cabinet approval is required for ratification to be made.

The approval had been requested for but the cabinet had sought clarifications on some matters that have now been adequately addressed in a response submitted to the cabinet recently. It is our considered view that as soon as cabinet approves the submission, the ratification process is almost near to completion.

Mr. President

Turning to the accusation that Uganda used cluster munitions in South Sudan, we find this very disturbing. This is unfounded and fictitious allegation. The statements can only be made by people who have no love for peace and do not want to see peaceful co-existence among the different groups of people in the South Sudan. As a signatory to this Convention, Uganda cannot in any way turn around and use such arms that have been banned internationally. In fact, Our Army, the Uganda people's Defence Forces (UPDF) does not possess these kinds of weapons.

Uganda is very much ready to cooperate with the African Union Commission of Inquiry, which is investigating war crimes in the South Sudan conflict.

I thank you, Mr. President for giving us this chance.