



Republic of Ghana

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REMARKS ON UNIVERSALIZATION

DELIVERED BY

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WEAPONS**

AT THE

CCM INTERSESSIONAL MEETING

SESSION ON UNIVERSALIZATION

GENEVA

APRIL, 16 201



Republic of Ghana

Mr. Co-ordinator,

I thank you for giving me the floor.

I make this statement in the capacity of one of the Co-ordinators on Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, a position Ghana was honored to accept, at the Third Meeting of State-Parties, last September, in Oslo Norway.

Ghana is encouraged by the number of states represented here in Geneva this week, including States Parties, signatories, and non-signatories.

Mr. Co-ordinator, we welcome the news that, currently a total of 112 countries have joined the Convention. 81 of which are state parties, whilst 31 are signatories but have not yet to ratify. This remarkable result has been achieved thanks to the diligent efforts by the Convention community including the state parties, the UNDP and other international organizations, and civil society, in particular the CMC.

Mr. Co-ordinator, Ghana was proud to host the Accra conference on universalization of the CCM in May 2012. We are committed to continuing to work with our fellow African states to implement the Accra Action Plan in which we collectively aimed to ‘attain a cluster munitions free Africa with universal

adherence to the CCM.’ We therefore urge signatory states to make the final steps towards ratification, and non-signatory states to accede ahead of the 4th Meeting of State Parties in Zambia this September. We need action to match the positive and strong commitments delivered in the last year.

We also need to see strong progress in the other regions of the world. In this regard we are pleased to welcome the large number of non-signatory states attending the Intercessional meeting this week. Your attendance here is important and sends a strong signal to the world that a diverse, powerful and growing majority of countries recognize the need to put an end to the horrors of cluster munitions and are taking action to achieve this goal. We offer our support to help you take the next steps to join the Convention.

As CO coordinators of the universalization of the CCM, Portugal and Ghana encourage all state parties and signatories worldwide to remember their obligations under Article 21 to encourage states not party to join the Convention. We also entreat Civil Society Groups such as the CMC to continue supporting us by advocating for governments to ratify and accede to the Convention. That is the only way we can stigmatize the use of cluster munitions and prevent future use.

Mr. Co-ordinator, let me use this opportunity to express our deep concern about the reported use of cluster munitions in some countries. Reports of ongoing civilian casualties caused by this weapon remind us of why we established the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The surest way we can stop further use of cluster munitions is through universalization of the Convention

Mr. Co-ordinator, during our tenure as a co-coordinator of the universalization of the CCM, Ghana will cooperate with Portugal, the coordinator to ensure more countries join the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

May I take this opportunity to express the sincere gratitude of my delegation to all Partners in the Universalization team, especially Japan and Portugal, whose leadership has contributed to a tremendous rate of accessions and ratification to the Convention. Ghana and Portugal, along with the UNDP, the CMC, the ICRC, and all Stakeholders will continue to promote the Universalization of the CCM.

I thank you.