

BOTSWANA: CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS INTERSESSIONAL MEETING

Mr President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

As this is the first time that Botswana have taken the floor – Mr President – I would like, like other previous speakers, to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to you and your team for the tireless hard work and leadership in driving forward our collective work by making this intersessional meeting on the Convention on Cluster Munitions a success.

Mr President, I'm happy to report that, in March 2022, Botswana participated in a regional conference in Nigeria on the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. During the regional conference in Nigeria, Botswana shared with delegates its experience on implementing and complying with the convention by disposing off its cluster munitions stockpiles. The successful disposal of cluster munitions was guided by and in compliance with Article 3 (storage and stockpile destruction) and Article 6 (International cooperation and assistance). Therefore, Botswana take pride in its successful destruction of its cluster munitions and experience sharing.

Mr President, Ladies and gentlemen, let me point out that Botswana signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2007 and ratified it in June 2011. Upon signing and ratification, Botswana already had stockpile of two types of cluster munitions. Let me make it clear Dear Colleagues that despite Botswana having in its inventory cluster munitions it has never used it inside or outside its borders, therefore it has no cluster munition infected areas.

In the process of implementing Article 3. Botswana faced challenges of destroying the stockpile due to various reasons amongst which was lack of technical capacity, and lack of finances to support an ammunitions disposal project, hence the request for technical assistance from the Norwegian People's Aid.

Mr President in conclusion let me emphasize that the destruction of the cluster munitions in Botswana could not have been realised had it not been the Norwegians Peoples Aid's valuable assistance

Botswana now has taken all necessary step in destroying all the stockpiles in its jurisdiction and hence achieving compliance in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

I thank you.