

## Guineas-Bissau's Speech at the Cluster Munitions Standing Committee

Thank you Mr.Cheer,

Ladies and gentlemen

Dear Colleagues,

I would like on behalf of Guinea-Bissau Government inform you about our experience and challenges regarding this Convention:

As you may know Guinea-Bissau is now a State Party of this Convention and we have some stockpiled of those ammunitions in our Air Base Facility in Bissau.

Guinea-Bissau was affected for those ammunitions in Bissau city during our internal conflict in 1998/99 when our Military Store facilities was exploded and it was affected an area approximately 400.000m<sup>2</sup>. But fortunately at that time (2008) we had a EU financial support for Mine and Uxos clearance through Cleared Ground Demining NGO, we destroyed all of them ( more than 50) bombs from 250 kg to 500 kg.

During the process of destructions we adopted two methods:

1. Destruction in situ for that bombs in bad conditions with separated sub-ammunitions, which we cannot move due to the potential risk ; in this case we use the sand bags to minimize the impact of explosion,
2. Destruction in our destruction site at 45 km at Bissau, when we can transport those ammunitions and conduct the safe destruction.

As a State party we need to prepare and send to UN Secretary-General Office our first transparence report in according to article 7 of the Convention, but we still have some delay due to some administrative arrangement to the Armed Forces Chief of Staff to give us an authorization to go inside Air Base Store facility to proceed the

accountability and classification on those ammunitions to be in condition to make plan for their destruction.

My Country is not in conditions to do so alone, we don't have enough skill and resources for this reason we will need to apply for International support and assistance. At same time we will need more safely Store facilities to maintain in good and safely conditions our armaments .

I hope that the Moldovan experience in this regard will helpful for Guinea-Bissau, because all our Cluster Munitions stock are from the former Soviet Union .

Mr. President,

Dear Colleagues

I would like to assure you that my Government is fully open to collaborate with International Community to address this problem. My Country never produce and never use this kind of ammunitions, and we know about the potential risk we occur with the presence of those dangerous ammunitions.

Guinea-Bissau don't have financial resources, but we have our good will and we shown our commitments in signing and ratify all disarmaments Conventions ( Ottawa, CCW and CCM ).

Thanks for your kindly attention

César de Carvalho

CAAMI's National Director