

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY KENYA DURING **SESSION IV (INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE) ON MONDAY 28 MAY**. THE ACCRA MEETING ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION CLUSTER MUNITIONS.

Mr Chairman,

Distiguished delegates

As you are aware, the Horn of Africa region has been mired by the effects of Cluster Munitions as well as suffered from uncontrolled proliferation of Conventional Weapons and in specific Small Arms and Light weapons. In this regard, Kenya hosts the International Mine Training Centre in Nairobi which trains peace keepers and other members of defence forces from the region in demining. Similarly, Kenya has in the recent past participated in various peace keeping operations especially in conflict prone countries and such training from the demining centre has largely assisted in the clearance of contaminated areas.

The centre trains humanitarian deminers to international mine action standards. So far, students have come from the Horn of Africa and other regions in Africa. Additionally, students from the United Nations Mine Action Service and several NGOs including

Norwegian People's Aid, Danish Church Aid and Federation Swiss Demining have attended these courses.

The Centre and Kenya's valuable contribution to its subsequent successful operations in sub-Saharan Africa is evident as the Sub Saharan Africa remains one of the most heavily mined area of the world. (According to the-Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining). The Centre has rapidly gained an international reputation as the Centre of Excellence for mine action training in Africa since it opened in 2005 and now in operation in mine affected countries in the region.

Mr Chairman,
Distiguished delegates

The Centre provides unparalleled training opportunity for mine action through its excellent facilities, access to local Kenyan training areas and its unique position in a neutral and secure location in Africa. The Centre's success is also due to a very special British/Kenyan Army friendship and a commitment to reducing suffering caused by landmines.

Mine clearance is notoriously painstaking, expensive and dangerous work but the quality training provided by the centre contributes to the worldwide effort to eradicate landmines, and cluster Bombs. The definition of Humanitarian Demining (technical term

Mine Action) is the complete removal of mines and explosive ordnance to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) from a designated area to allow the land to be used by civilian population.

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished delegates

As I conclude Kenya lauds the immense goodwill and material support has been put at our disposal to enable the to implement appropriate programmes to counter the effects of land mines unexploded ordnance UXO in our region and beyond. We must redouble our efforts in complementing this goodwill, by translating our commitments into tangible support for the sustenance of our regional effort, particularly the operations of the Mine Centre on which have made substantial achievement within the period of its establishment.

I thank you