

## BOTSWANA STATEMENT ON UNIVERSALISATION

### **ACCRA, GHANA: MAY 2012**

Mr Chairman, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: Protocol observed.

As this is the first time that Botswana have taken to the floor – Chair - I would like, like other previous speakers, to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of Ghana for their tireless hard work and leadership in driving forward our collective work by making this conference on the universalization of the convention on Cluster Munition a success. Mr Chair, it would be unfair not to recognise the splendid work performed by Zambia and Togo during preparations for this conference. Botswana Would also like to thank the Kingdom of Norway for extending its hand of assistance that enabled maximum participation in this conference and less cannot be said about the UNDP in as far as its contribution is concerned. May I also extend my thanks to my distinguished colleagues who through their deliberations during the first day showed that Sub Saharan Africa really is up to its task? Together we lead!

Mr Chair

It is true, that conference on the universalization of the Convention on cluster munitions is not only important to state parties but to those who have yet to accede or ratify as this is critical to achieving the maximum

humanitarian effect of the Convention. The positive progress report received from both signatories and non-signatories is only but a light at the end of a tunnel. Botswana was very much pleased to hear from my colleagues from southern Africa in particular and Sub Saharan Africa region at large, the efforts they are making as individual countries to ratify the convention on cluster munitions. A total ratification of this convention by all sub Saharan states would be a fantastic achievement.

Mr Chair

As a man from the military, I am not learned to address you on the issues pertaining to legislations. But one thing that I can confirm is that Botswana did ratify the CCM therefore is a state party to the convention. It is my utmost hope that a legislation that prohibit activities, including the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions from taking place within the Botswana borders would be addressed accordingly.

Mr Chair, Ladies and Gentleman

One speaker yesterday pointed out the issue of lack of continuity in attending the conferences of this nature. I totally agree with that speaker Mr Chair in that consistency in attending these conferences should be looked into by member states

Last but not the least, Botswana's position on Convention on Cluster Munition is unshakable and in

due course Botswana will through appropriate channels submit a transparency report as it is mandatory.

Thank you Mr Chair

Botswana Delegate (Major M Opelo)

**29 May 2012 Accra, Ghana**