

STATEMENT OF UGANDA AT THE ACCRA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE UNIVERSALISATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS, MAY 28 TO 30, 2012

Chairperson,

Since this the first time I take the floor, allow me to extend to the Government and the people of Ghana my delegation's appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality that we have enjoyed so far. Uganda commends the Government of Ghana for accepting to host this important regional meeting on matter of great humanitarian significance as well as the UNDP and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway for supporting this meeting.

Chairperson, Uganda was among the first African countries to sign the CCM at a ceremony that took place Oslo in Dec 2008. However, the country has not yet completed the ratification process, due in large part our heavy political calendar in 2010/2011 which led to the formation of a new Government and Parliament in addition to the administrative processes involved with the legislation process in Uganda. These notwithstanding, let me reassure you that Uganda's ratification process is on course and it is our hope that the process is finalized before the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP).

Prior to the signing ceremony as you well know; as a demonstration of our commitment to make meaningful contributions to this great humanitarian initiative, Uganda hosted, a Regional Africa Meeting in Kampala in 2008 with an objective of mobilizing all African states to be party to the CCM; the meeting adopted an action plan "*Kampala Action Plan on Cluster Munitions*".

As reported at the Bairut meeting, Uganda is taking steps to the CCM, these include;

- a. Revamping the National Humanitarian Law Committee, which is housed in the Office of the Prime Minister—the Committee oversees the implementation of Uganda's undertakings under all international humanitarian law treaties.
- b. Assigning each of the humanitarian law treaties to Ministries with a lead stake in each; CCM was assigned to the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, charged with coordination and initiation of processes for domestication of International

instruments, is currently in contact with the Ministry of Defence to ensure the speedy ratification of the CCM.

We are also happy to report that a Bill to domesticate a similar treaty; the 1997 Treaty on Anti Personnel Mines is being processed by the Ministry of Defence. This would provide a good precedent for the ratification of the CCM.

Lastly Uganda is open and ready to collaborate and consult other States Parties in regard to the ratification process and there after the implementation of the treaty both at the National, regional and international levels. Uganda is as you will note, playing a pivotal role in the peace building process in Somalia and is in the same spirit, desirous to support the implementation of the cluster munitions treaty in the Great Lakes region and beyond.

Thank you

Oscar Edule

FIRST SECRETARY, UGANDA MISSION TO THE UN /GENEVA