



SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT BY THE SIERRA LEONE

DELEGATION ON

THE STATUS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

1. The Republic of Sierra Leone was one of four countries that both signed and ratified the convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway on the 3rd December 2008. Subsequently it was among the first 30 ratifications that triggered entry into force of the convention on 1st August 2010.
2. At the second meeting of state^s parties in Beirut, Lebanon. Sierra Leone obtained a draft legislation prepared by New-Zealand for possible use by small state^s that do not posses cluster munitions and are not contaminated by them. It meets the obligation under the cluster munitions convention applicable to these states to prohibit ^{future} ~~future~~ possession of cluster munitions and to outlaw trade in them on their transfer or transit. The draft

legislation has been surrendered to the National Committee for the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law which will cause the domestication of the convention, making sure that the ~~the~~ Act create^s criminal offence to enforce the prohibition set out in Article 1 of the convention.

3. Sierra Leone participated in the negotiation on the CCM in May 2008 in Dublin, where it formally adopted the convention and expressed the satisfaction with the text and conference out come.
4. Sierra Leone has continued to engage in the work of the Convention. It attended the Berlin conference on the destruction of Cluster Munitions in June 2009 and the International conference on Cluster Munitions in Santiago, Chile in June 2010. The country however did not participate in the African Regional Conference on the universalization and implementation of the convention on Cluster Munitions in Pretoria, South Africa March 2010.
5. Sierra Leone is party to the Mine Ban Treaty and also party to the convention on conventional weapons and its protocol V on explosive remnants of war.
6. Sierra Leone has never used, produced, transferred or stockpiled Cluster Munitions

7. The Country had reported that the Economic Community of West Africa States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) Peacekeepers from Nigeria used cluster munitions in Sierra Leone. Sources close to the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces then, in 1997, reported that Nigerian forces operating as ECOMOG Peacekeepers dropped two Cluster bombs on Lokomasama, near Portloko. The then ECOMOG force commander, General Victor Malu denied the reports. The media also reported that Nigerian ECOMOG peacekeepers used French-produced BLG-66 Belouga Cluster bombs in an attack on the Eastern town of Kenema in 1997.
8. The Government of President Ernest Bai Koroma remains fully committed to an International Ban on Cluster Munitions and reaffirm^s its commitment to the universalization of the convention with promise to work with civil society and seek partnership with other countries to promote same.
9. Sierra Leone commends the Governments of Ghana, Togo and Zambia for co-operating to organize this meeting and the Government and people of Norway and the UNDP for sponsoring and funding same.
10. Sierra Leone remains grateful to the British Government who has tirelessly launched a political initiative to encourage more commonwealth countries including Sierra Leone to sign and ratify the convention.