

THE ADDIS ABABA COMMITMENT ON UNIVERSALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Highly concerned at the continued use of cluster munitions and the undesirable humanitarian consequences thereof particularly on civilian populations; and building on the Accra and Lomé Declarations of 2012 and 2013 respectively, 17 African States¹ met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 4 and 5 August 2016 to recommit to the objectives of attaining a Cluster Munitions free Africa with universal adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions as well as with increased implementation of the Convention.

Taking note of the communique of the 584th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation calling for the universality of the CCM and other international instruments and requesting the AU Commission to assist member states with their clearance activities as well as facilitate the exchange of expertise and resources among them.

Acknowledging the renewed political commitment at the First Review Conference at which States expressed their support for cooperative efforts in the following actions in line with the Dubrovnik Action Plan:

To universalize the Convention on Cluster Munitions

We the States commit to increase adherence with the Convention and to promote the universalization of the Convention through continued outreach and engagement with States not parties in all appropriate fora.

We will endeavour to take every opportunity at national, regional, continental and global fora to reinforce the norms being established by the Convention so that there is a marked decrease in reported alleged and confirmed instances of use, with the objective to bring to an end the suffering and adverse humanitarian costs caused by cluster munitions.

To advance cooperation and assistance

We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen partnerships at all levels by communicating challenges and seeking assistance and by responding promptly to requests for assistance from those in need. We further undertake to identify and mobilize the necessary technical, material and financial resources and means of cooperation and assistance, at the community, the national and international level to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

At the country level, we commit to demonstrate a high-level national ownership in fulfilling the Convention's obligations and to this end empower and provide relevant state entities with the necessary human, financial and material capacities and resources to efficiently implement these obligations.

To promote Convention compliance

We will endeavour to participate more fully in the work of the Convention speaking out to condemn incidences of documented use of cluster munitions and to discourage production and transfer of cluster munitions, as agreed in the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

¹ Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

To ensure national implementation

We commit to prioritize the enactment of new legislation or the review of existing national legislation.

Also acknowledging the common challenges transcending African States in ratifying/acceding and implementing the obligations of the Convention, participants present expressed their support for the recommendations below to enhance universalization and effective implementation of the Convention goals:

1. Sensitization on importance of ratification of CCM at all levels domestically (especially the high levels), including Parliament
2. Establishing implementation agencies and designate national focal point at national level to coordinate the implementation of the CCM
3. Improving coordination amongst national stakeholders
4. Engaging the African Union as well as the regional economic communities (RECS) and the regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution (RMS)
5. Mobilization of resources at national, regional and international levels