

**Statement made by Cesar de Carvalho on the Lome regional conference on the
Universalisation of CCM on behalf of Guinea-Bissau**

Mr. Chairperson

Excellencies

Ladies and gentleman

Let me first of all congratulate Togo for hosting this important conference, and to thank UNDP and Kingdom of Norway for supporting my participation in this great African event

Guinea-Bissau is a state party of this Convention since 2010, and we actively participated in all negotiation process up to Dublin in May, 2008.

We bring to this convention our long experience from APBT, for this reason for us was not difficult to convince Government and parliament to accede and ratify this Convention.

As you may be aware Guinea-Bissau has suffered a lot for consequences of several wars and internal conflicts, we have more than One thousand records of accidents caused by mines, ERW and other explosives devices, for this reason our population is already sensitized for this problem.

Mr. Chairperson

Ladies and Gentleman

It is true that Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest countries around the world, and alone we cannot address this challenge, we need a solidarity of the international community, mainly from other States parties.

In 2011 we started our negotiation with UNMAS about our CCM stockpiled destruction throughout an international NGO, but the political situation that happened in April last year blocked all our common effort, but I hope that very soon we will have a possibility to react to this negotiation and proceed with the survey (inventory) and later its destruction.

For this reason we don't yet send our first transparency report in accordance to article 7, because we need to have a confident data from these Bombs and its sub munitions and all relevant technical information to include in this report.

Concerning the implementation measures, Guinea-Bissau considers that the existing laws are sufficient and they cover all use of explosives, including AP mines, AT Mines and Cluster munitions and the sanction against this practice is clear in our penal code.

Mr. President

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentleman

For this reason, Guinea-Bissau is a deeply concerned at recent and ongoing reports of the use of Cluster munitions. We reaffirm that Cluster munitions are an internationally prohibited weapons and any use of these weapons must be strongly condemned and stigmatized as completely unacceptable.

Guinea-Bissau prepares to attend the Lusaka meeting and we hope that we will in condition to update you with the progress made for us in this short period of time to continue to show our commitment to this convention, and I would like to take this opportunity to request donors solidarity to us in addressing all residual contaminations of ERW and CCM stockpiled.

Thanks for your attention