

## **'Update on National Implementation Measures, annual reporting, assistance and cooperation'**

We acknowledge that the problem of Cluster Munitions in the world is; it is an indiscriminate and unreliable weapon that has killed and injured thousands of people during their history of use and continue to do so. As a government, we are committed to seeing that its use is banned to put an end to the suffering it causes.

Uganda has from the on set signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2008 in Oslo, Norway. We have in addition actively participated in all initiatives under the Oslo process including importantly hosting the Kampala Meeting in 2008 on Cluster Munitions. This in itself manifested our support at a regional level for the other African countries.

In addition, we have also been a part of the Intercessional meeting on CCM in Geneva in April 2013.

On National Implementation.

Uganda has a National International Humanitarian Law Committee that among others is mandated to follow up on the various Conventions to ensure that they are ratified and eventually domesticated.

There have been wide national consultations on the CCM with clear indications that there is a need for ratification. Suffice to say we have had hurdles during consultations since majority of the populace did not understand what CCM is all about. The experts have however drafted the current Bill which is before the Office of the Solicitor General as is the norm to clear any legal interpretations/if any before the line Minister-Ministry of Defence then forwards it to Cabinet. The Minister responsible has already hinted this to his colleagues in cabinet which goes a step further to emphasize the political will of the country to ratify the CCM.

This is as far as the national implementation has gone.

Again I wish to reiterate that once the Convention is ratified-at least before the 4MSP in Lusaka, then, the process of domestication can start.

Uganda shall borrow a leaf from our own just concluded exercise with the Ottawa treaty which is in the final stages of being domesticated.

We commit ourselves and are obliged to report progress annually.

We also call for assistance to fast track the process from UNDP, ICRC, CMC, UNREC and other member states that maybe in position to help us. Assistance can be both technical and financial.

We also pledge cooperation with other states and take it upon ourselves to be part of Advocacy group/coordination team of selected member states as was discussed in Session II on Wednesday afternoon in working groups under the theme 'Devising strategies towards full universalization in Africa'. As a country we shall promote signature and ratification of the CCM in the East African Community (EAC) as a regional block and foster it regionally as well.