

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND AT THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS HELD IN LOME, TOGO ON 22 - 23 MAY 2013.

Thank you,Chair

1. Allow me to join others in congratulating you and members of your Bureau upon your well deserved election to preside over our proceedings. My delegation assures you of its full support. I will wish to thank the Government and people of the Republic of Togo for hosting this meeting and for the warm hospitality we have received since our arrival here as well as for the excellent facilities putr at our disposal for this meeting.

Chair

2. Swaziland acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in September, 2011 and has ever since accorded the issue the seriousness it deserves. This is deposite the fact that Swaziland has never produced, stockpiled, used and transferred cluster munitions. My country is greatly saddened by the suffering of victims and their dependants that is caused by the use of these indiscriminate killers. It is this regard, that we feel duty bound to join the rest of the world and call for the eradication of cluster munitions.

Chair,

3. Swaziland is proud to reaffirm its unreserved support of the **Accra Universalization Action Plan** which aims to attain a cluster munitions free Africa with universal adherence to the CCM. We believe this is a possible goal to attain as long as we stand together united in our quest to obtain a cluster munitions free zone. We therefore call upon Governments of all African States to work together as a team with the civil society and mobilise the masses to join the campaign and say, "away with cluster munitions".

Chair

4. It is very disturbing if not disheartening to learn that as we promote and call for adherence to the CCM, there are some States that still continue to produce, stockpile, use and transfer this deadly weapon thereby causing additional casualties to the numbers we are presently nursing. We encourage those States to consider the trauma and suffering they cause to the innocent civilians.

Chair

5. In conclusion, let me share with you my peoples' idiom that "if you want to see your village clean, everyone must clean his yard". It is my earnest and humble plea that every African State should honour its responsibility and continue to encourage its neighbours to blow the trumpet and say enough is enough. Swaziland continues to share information in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and consistently and timeously submit its Transparency Report. Even though our report indicates that we never dealt with cluster munitions, we do it with a hope that even the states that has the weapons will one day report a nil

Chair, I thank you