

South Sudan Statement on the 10th MSP Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions 30th -2nd September 2022

Mr. President, Your Excellences, distinguished guests, allow me first of all, to express my sincere gratitude for inviting me for this important 10th meeting of States parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and for permitting this opportunity to update you on the significant progress that South Sudan has made with regards to its efforts to clear the country from the danger of Cluster Munitions.

As already reported before South Sudan has shown its interest to sign the Convention since 2011. As a new State South Sudan is having a competing demands and priorities as such it has delayed the rectification process of the Convention up to date. However, of recent we had a very fruitful meeting with the Chairperson of the specialized committees for Defense and Veterans Affairs and its members in the assembly concerning the rectification of the Convention.

The Chairperson and his members were all positive about the rectification of the convention. They promised that within next month it will be tabled for deliberation after which it will be passed to the President of the Republic to sign it into law and will be submitted to New-York as our accession. For the moment South Sudan do voluntarily submit its article 7 transparency report to the convention ISU.

Mr. President, South Sudan continues to discover a number of cluster Munitions contaminated areas. More contamination were discovered through ongoing survey and clearance activities. I stress that all of these new task date to the war of liberation.

The below are the statistical data of the ongoing Cluster Munitions clearance activities in the Country from January 2021 to July 2022.

- 1-As of July 2022, the remaining Cluster Munitions hazards is standing at 126 tasks that extend to a suspected hazardous area of 5,149,394 meter square.
- 2- 28 tasks have been completed as from January 2021 to July 2022 and that 4,274 sub-munitions were destroyed for a total clearance area of 5,546,905 square meters.
- 3- The total Cluster Munitions hazards cancelled in this reporting time are 3 tasks covering an area of 477,230 square meters.
- 4- There is no accident related to cluster munitions during the reporting period.

South Sudan has developed a strong method for the clearance of cluster munitions that allows the mine action actors to discriminate between the cluster munitions size and other scattered munitions. In South Sudan the productivity of cluster munitions clearance teams has been enhanced through the use of mechanical vegetation cutting equipment as such it makes clearance faster and safer.

In Conclusion, we need to note that advocating for international support for South Sudan has become very challenging. Funding that are meant for clearance of Anti-personnel mines are also used for the clearance of cluster munitions since South Sudan does not receive specific funding for the clearance of cluster munitions.

South Sudan will therefore need more support to clear the remaining cluster munitions in the Country.

Thanks