



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

**THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE, WTO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA**

**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE GAMBIA: STATEMENT TO BE
DELIVERED BY H. E. PROF. AMBASSADOR MUHAMMADOU M. O. KAH:
GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT THE 11 MSP OF THE CONVENTION ON
CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Mr President,

The Gambia congratulates Your Excellency Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa of the Republic of Iraq on your election as the President of the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and for the excellent preparatory work leading to this Conference. In a similar vein, we commend our colleagues of the Coordinating Committee for their well-coordinated efforts towards the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the CCM.

My best wishes to Ms Pamela Moraga on her appointment as the Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the CCM and pray for her success during her tenure. Be rest assured of the full support of The Gambia during this period.

My delegation also takes this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Ms. Sheila Mweemba, the outgoing Director of the ISU for CCM for her outstanding performance and unwavering support to the Member States during her tenure and wish her all the best of luck in her future engagements.

The Gambia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Group.

Mr. President,

It is with great concern that we continue to witness an increase in the unregulated trade and transfer of weaponries and ammunitions around the world and this increases the risk of diversion and use by the wrong hands.

The Gambia strongly supports international cooperation, regional and triangular cooperation through South-South cooperation, public-private partnerships, as

well as sharing of national experiences, best practices, resources, and transfer of technology in the implementation of the obligations under the Convention.

Distinguished delegates,

The Gambia remains mindful of the deadly impact of these explosive hazards and their negative effect on civilians, particularly on vulnerable populations including children and women. Therefore, as a country, we are committed to international efforts against the use, transfer, development and production of cluster munitions, as we are deeply concerned by their horrifying humanitarian consequences, especially when used in populated areas.

The Gambia also supports the enhancement of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) and monitoring to assess progress and the level of compliance with a view to reducing exposure to hazards in the implementation of the convention.

Mr. President,

To conclude, The Gambia urges all Member States, in particular those bound by the CCM, to continue raising their advocacy efforts to effectively put an end to the harms of the use of cluster munitions, adopt regulatory measures to curb illicit the trade of weapons, remain transparent in the reporting, and support the universalization of the convention.

On that note, I wish to recognize and welcome South Sudan on its accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), and also congratulate Nigeria, for ratifying the treaty this year.

I thank you for your kind attention.