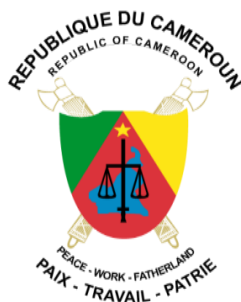


REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix – Travail – Patrie

MINISTERE DES RELATIONS EXTERIEURES



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace – Work – Fatherland

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Cameroon's Presentation at the 12th Meeting of State Parties to the Convention of Cluster Munitions.

General exchange of views

Mr Vice President,

Distinguished Representatives,

Dear Colleagues,

Cameroon aligns to the Declaration of Niger on behalf of the African group. I would like to extend the sincere condolences of the Cameroonian government to the Delegation of Peru for the loss of Ambassador Ana Diaz.

Mr Vice President

Given that this is the first time my country is taking the floor in this meeting, allow me to begin by expressing my deep satisfaction at the choice of the illustrious person of the Ambassador of Mexico to chair the work of this 12th Conference of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This mark of attention testifies to the recognition of her personal qualities and proven professional skills. I would like to assure you of the support and availability of the Cameroonian delegation to accompany her in the performance of her duties.

We would also like to thank Mrs Pamela Moraga, Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), and her team for their commitment and dedication to the implementation of the Convention. In this light, we wish to express Cameroon's gratitude to the Convention's Implementation Support Unit for enabling and facilitating the participation of one of our delegates coming from the Capital in this Session.

Mr Vice President,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Like other treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation issues in general, the Convention on Cluster Munitions is of particular interest to my country.

Indeed, Cameroon's commitment to the Oslo process is long-standing and unwavering, evident in her early expression of the desire to achieve a

world free of cluster munitions through her participation in the various high-level conferences and meetings dedicated to the negotiation, adoption, signature and implementation of the Convention. This position was reinforced by my country's ratification of this treaty on July 12, 2012.

Building on this commitment, in February 2023 Cameroon hosted the African regional workshop on the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Co-organized by the Convention's Implementation Support Unit with the support of bilateral partners, this workshop, which brought together several countries and international organizations specializing in mine clearance and stockpile destruction, aimed to strengthen the universalization and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in French-speaking Africa. In this respect, my country has submitted its 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 national reports and is preparing to submit its 2023 report.

Mr Vice President,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Considering the damaging and long-lasting effects the use of these weapons has on civilian populations; Cameroon is particularly concerned by the expression of Lithuania to withdraw from the Convention. Given that the use of cluster munitions is a serious threat to the global peace and security architecture which is of prime importance to the United Nations and considering the recent deliveries and use of cluster munitions in some conflicts in the international scene, my country advances that measures be put in place at the universal, regional and bilateral levels to encourage the adherence of more countries to the Convention.

In preparation for the 3rd Review Conference, this 12th Session of our Meeting gives me the opportunity to renew the appeal of my country, Cameroon, for a more significant increase in the number of States Parties

to our Convention, given the worryingly low rate of ratification of or accession to our Convention in recent years.

Thank you for your attention.