



STATEMENT BY

THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

AT THE

**TWELFTH MEETING OF STATE PARTIES ON THE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)**

GENEVA, 10 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2024

Mr. Vice President,

The Ghanaian delegation, through you, joins earlier speakers to congratulate Madam Elizabeth Escobar as the President of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties (12MSP). We also commend your adeptness in steering this meeting and assure you of our full support and cooperation in your work. My delegation also extends warm regards and appreciation to Ms. Pamela Moraga, Director of the Implementation Support Unit and her team for their hard work, dedication and quality documentation to facilitate our effective deliberations.

Our deepest condolences to the Government and People of Peru following the passing of Ambassador Anna Diaz. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and may her soul rest in peace.

Ghana aligns with the statement delivered by Niger on behalf of the African Group and reiterates the indiscriminate harm posed by cluster munitions, be it, physical, economic or social and adds its voice to the call for continued efforts to end its acquisition and usage.

Mr. Vice President,

Ghana has always been a devoted advocate for disarmament and the elimination of weapons that pose significant threats to civilian populations. To reaffirm its commitment to international peace and security, Ghana ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in 2011, keeping with its commitment to a world free of cluster bombs.

Our domestic laws and administrative actions to implement the Convention have also advanced considerably. A Bill has been drafted which is going through the legal process necessary for approval. The steady progress of this legislation reflects Ghana's unwavering commitment to align its national laws with international humanitarian standards.

In addition to national legislation, Ghana has integrated its commitments under the CCM into broader national security and defense policies. The 2024 National Security Strategy, for instance, highlights the importance of disarmament and arms control in Ghana's approach to maintaining peace and security in the West African region. This strategy underscores Ghana's role as a regional leader in promoting the principles of the CCM and advocating for the universalization of the Convention among Member States in the sub-region.

Mr. Vice President,

Even though Ghana has not directly suffered from the effects of cluster munitions, she shares grave concern on the indiscriminate and devastating impacts of these deadly weapons and their remnants. Ghana is therefore pleased to state that, since the ratification of the Convention, our stance has remained unchanged. Ghana has not produced, used, stockpiled or transferred cluster munitions to a third party, neither has she suffered any cluster munitions-related casualties.

Focused on maintaining this status, Ghana has employed a proactive prevention approach through risk education, an activity that is spearheaded by the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons. These campaigns, have significantly increased awareness among the local populace on the effects and dangers of Cluster Munitions and Unexploded Ordinances, thus reducing the likelihood of accidents or casualties.

Mr. Vice President,

Ghana continues to reiterate its support for a world free of cluster munitions and calls for enhanced international cooperation to assist affected states in meeting their clearance and victim assistance obligations.

We would also like to seek increased international assistance, both in terms of funding and capacity-building support for some key personnel in the security sectors to strengthen their technical expertise in identifying and containing the effects of these weapons.

The full objectives of the Accra Universalization Action Plan, which was laid out twelve years ago, will be achieved more easily if States in the African Region who have not yet ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions do so. Looking ahead, Ghana is still committed to strengthening its implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and we ask our neighbors to join us on this journey of creating a safer Africa and a safer world.

I thank you Mr. Vice President!