



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

AT THE

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

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Ghanaian delegation, I extend warm congratulations to you on your election to preside over this Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). We also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election and further assure you of our full support and cooperation in advancing the important work of this Conference.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the African Group and warmly welcomes the Republic of Vanuatu as the 112th State Party to the Convention.

Mr President,

Cluster munitions are among the most destructive weapons of war, dispersing multiple explosive sub-munitions over wide areas and leaving behind remnants that endanger civilians long after conflicts have ended. The adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in 2008 was a landmark achievement in international humanitarian disarmament, and since its entry into force in 2010, the Convention has made remarkable progress in addressing the unacceptable harm caused by these weapons.

Mr. President,

Since Ghana signed the CCM on 3rd December 2008 and ratified on 3rd February 2011, Ghana has never produced, used, stockpiled, or transferred cluster munitions, nor has the country suffered any cluster munitions-related casualties. This principled stance does not only reaffirm our commitment to the obligations under the CCM but also underscores our firm commitment to the protection of civilians and to the core humanitarian objectives of the Convention.

At the domestic level, Ghana has made considerable progress in implementing the Convention. The proposed National Arms Bill, which is currently going through the legal processes for Cabinet approval and enactment, reflects our determination to align Ghana's national legislation with international humanitarian laws and standards. Beyond legislation, Ghana has integrated its CCM obligations into the 2024 National Security Strategy, which identifies disarmament and arms control as central to our peace and security agenda in the West African region.

Besides the above, Ghana also acknowledges the importance of risk education and prevention. Through the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NACSA) and in

collaboration with other agencies, Ghana continues to spearhead community sensitization campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of explosive remnants of war, small arms misuse, and related threats. These campaigns, including nationwide outreach to schools and communities, have helped reduce risks and prevent potential accidents.

Mr. President,

Ghana and other West African countries are not directly contaminated by cluster munitions, nonetheless, exposure to unexploded ordnance during peace keeping missions by these states can threaten the physical safety of their troops and have lasting psychological consequences. Ghana, therefore, remains gravely concerned by the indiscriminate effects of cluster munitions on affected States and continues to lend our voice in support of victim assistance and international cooperation and assistance under the Convention.

In this light, Ghana believes it is time to move beyond the current focus on only affected States in matters of international cooperation and assistance. Non-affected States equally require support to build preventive and responsive capacity, particularly through training military officers as qualified rehabilitation professionals to assist personnel who may fall victim during peacebuilding and support operations. My delegation therefore urges States in a position to provide the necessary financial and technical support to assist both affected and non-affected States in order to strengthen capacity-building in line with Article 6 of the Convention.

Mr President,

The successes of the Convention are evident given the millions of cluster munitions destroyed, significant reductions in production, and growing international awareness of their devastating impact. Ghana is proud to be part of this progress and remains steadfast in its commitment to humanitarian disarmament and international peace.

The Accra Universalization Action Plan continues to serve as a framework for mobilizing African States towards this shared goal. Ghana strongly believes that universal adherence to the CCM is critical to ensuring lasting humanitarian protection across our continent and beyond.

We, therefore, call on all States Parties to remain resolute in meeting their obligations and to work together to achieve the vision of a world free of cluster munitions.

I thank you for your attention.