

Republic of Ghana

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GHANA'S STATEMENT ON UNIVERSALIZATION

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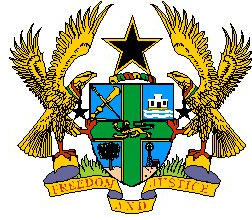
GHANA NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

AT THE

**THE THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)**

OSLO, NORWAY

13 SEPTEMBER, 2012



Republic of Ghana

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me, once again, to convey Ghana's sincere gratitude to the Kingdom of Norway for hosting this meeting and for driving this process forward from the very beginning. We would like to specifically thank Ambassador Kongstad and his team for their excellent work towards the successful organization of the Third Meeting of States Parties.

Recognizing the immense humanitarian imperatives of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Ghana was present in Oslo, almost 4 years ago at the signing Conference. Since this time and the ratification which was finalized on 3rd February 2011, Ghana has continuously worked in order to comply with its obligations under the Convention. As such, we have drafted a legislation to prohibit the use, manufacturing, production, stockpiling, and transfer of Cluster Munitions including penal sanctions for any violations.

Although we are not affected by cluster munitions contamination, in line with Article 21 of the Convention, Ghana has taken great effort to promote the universalization of the Convention in Sub-Saharan Africa. In this respect, Ghana

hosted a regional conference on the Universalization of the CCM, from the 28 to the 30 May 2012, in collaboration with Togo and Zambia and with the support of the CMC, ICRC and UNDP.

The conference was followed by a technical workshop on the 30th of May, which gathered 34 African States to discuss ways to overcome challenges currently faced by Sub-Sahara States considering CCM ratification or accession and to assist States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, so as to accelerate its implementation.

We have been highly encouraged by the motivation of many States to ratify the CCM as soon as possible and by the dynamism of all participants involved. During the workshop, States spoke openly and constructively on challenges to ratification and accession. Other States also gained insight on the experiences of many others who had already become States Parties. The highly encouraging discussions that took place during these sessions ultimately formed the basis of the Accra Action Plan, in order to reflect the wishes of States Parties

In line with the Vientiane Action Plan, I am pleased to announce that the Accra Action Plan represents a firm commitment by Sub-Saharan African States to pursue all potential opportunities to promote the full universalization of the CCM, and highlight their willingness to take all possible steps in the framework of partnership, assistance and cooperation, national implementation and participation to promote the CCM. In this vein, we very much hope to work closely with all States parties to realize the commitments that have been made.

Based on the Accra Action Plan and on our initial commitment, it is with great pleasure that I confirm Ghana's continued efforts to promote the CCM as Coordinator for Universalization. Our global aspiration for universalization is to encourage the development of an outreach plan that focuses on countries that have shown interest and need assistance to join the convention.

We also align with the Kingdom of Norway in further promoting the Regionalized universalization concept. In respect of the overwhelming success of the Accra meeting and its potential for accelerated universalization of the Convention, Ghana takes the opportunity to call upon all states parties to consider contributing to the promotion of this concept to all regions. It is our firm belief that institutionalized regional meetings for universalization may in future be extended to promote the implementation of other important obligations under the Convention, due largely to the benefit of peer-to-peer review based on common interests.

Mr. President, we look forward to working with you and hope that, under your Presidency, many more States will accede to the Convention.

I thank you.