

**Statement by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa
(UNREC) - Regional Meeting on Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions –
Lomé 22-23 May 2013**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to thank the Government of Togo for hosting this conference as well as those who contributed towards its organization, including the Governments of Ghana, Zambia and UNDP.

It is always a great pleasure to join representatives from African States and this is a great occasion to do it again. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (UNREC) is part of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. UNREC received its mandate from the General Assembly to provide support to African countries in their efforts to consolidate peace and in their disarmament efforts. UNREC works together with Member States, as well as regional and sub-regional bodies such as the African Union and ECOWAS, among others. Today, and in the following days, we will discuss how to assist States to overcome challenges faced by States considering ratification or accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the implementation of national measures.

UNREC can provide support to this process through assistance in the harmonization of national legislation with the international instrument. This includes analyzing national laws and adapting them to the international instruments as well as organizing expert meetings on the subject (including academics, parliamentarians, public officials, etc). UNREC can also assist in

organizing regional or sub-regional meetings in support of the universalization of the Convention and it can support countries in their reporting duties, including technical assistance.

UNREC has gained the necessary experience and expertise to provide this type of support through its past work. For example, UNREC supported States in the drafting and adoption of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (The Kinshasa Convention). UNREC has also supported ECOWAS in developing a guide for the organization's Member States on the harmonization of legislation. More recently, UNREC provided support to African States to facilitate consultations on the Arms Trade Treaty.

We look forward to working with you to find ways to support the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We would also like to mention that the yearly reports required by the Convention are submitted to the Office for Disarmament Affairs through its Geneva Branch. As per Article 7 of the Convention, we would like to stress the importance of reporting as a transparency measure and encourage State Parties to submit their yearly reports. Reports are due each year by 30 April and should be submitted to the following address:

CCM Secretariat
Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)
Palais des Nations, room C-113.1
Avenue de la Paix 8-14
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Fax: 41-22-917-0034
E-mail: ccm@unog.ch.

We look forward to interacting with you, distinguished delegates, throughout the Conference.

Thank you.