

Statement delivered by Dr. Riak Gok Majok, on behalf of the Republic of South Sudan in the Regional Seminar on the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Lome, Togo, from 22 to 23 May, 2013.

Thank you Mr. President.

Mr. President, we do acknowledge the fact that the Republic of South Sudan has not yet signed and ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Mr. President, the Republic of South has a historical responsibility to fully participate in the processes that will lead to mitigation and prevention of humanitarian and Human rights violation through misuse of lethal arms, ammunition and munitions. We assure this forum that the Republic of South Sudan is committed to play a constructive role with other nations to ensure that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is signed and subsequently ratified and we are resolved to fulfill our obligation.

As a post conflict country whose people suffered in a great deal as a result of a 50 year of protracted and devastating war, South Sudan is bound by duty to engage positively with African countries and international Community to ensure that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is signed and fully implemented to alleviate anguish through which our people have been subjected to, particularly the most vulnerable ones, women and children.

Mr. President, the leadership of the Republic of South Sudan is persuaded by the fact that security, peace and stability are the core ingredients for any country to engage in fulfilling and meaningful human and economic development. In cognizance of this reality, the Republic of South Sudan will closely work in partnership with other nations to free the world of cluster munitions and other deadly weapons. My Delegation assures you that soon upon its arrival in Juba, all the processes leading to the signing and ratification of the Convention will be undertaken for the leadership to eventually take appropriate and an informed decision.

Thank you.