

Lomé Regional Seminar on the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Lomé Strategy on the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

We,

Representatives of 36 African countries¹, met in Lomé, Togo, 22-23 May 2013, to review the progress made in implementing the *Accra Universalization Action Plan* of May 2012 and to reaffirm our support and commitment to its goal to attain a cluster munitions free Africa through universal adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

Encouraged that 23 African countries are States Parties and that 19 countries are signatories to the CCM, commend the 3 countries – Cameroon, Chad and Togo – that have ratified the CCM since the Accra meeting, commit ourselves to work together to support the 19 signatory states and the 12 non-signatory African countries to become States Parties at the earliest opportunity.

Gravely concerned by the recent and on-going use of cluster munitions as well as by the effects of these weapons that have led to mounting numbers of victims, including women and children.

Inspired by the efforts being undertaken by many governments, international organizations and civil society to ban cluster munitions.

Convinced that concerted and accelerated efforts are required to overcome the remaining challenges to universalize the CCM in Africa.

Reaffirming our support to, and building upon, the *Accra Universalization Action Plan* and the *Vientiane Action Plan*, we remain committed to the following actions in the lead up to, and during, Zambia's Presidency of the CCM:

1. Call for the immediate end to the use of cluster munitions and further urge all States to join the CCM.
2. Promote bilateral and regional cooperation through sharing experiences, good practices, resources and expertise to ensure the full universalization and implementation of the CCM.
3. Make every effort to provide mentoring advice, cooperation and assistance to States that are not yet party to the CCM to expedite full universalization and implementation of the CCM.

¹ Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.. Observers: Eritrea, Gabon, Libya, Morocco, South Sudan, Zimbabwe

4. Seize the opportunities offered by meetings of the CCM, bilateral meetings, and meetings of regional and sub-regional fora, to exchange information between States Parties and States that are not yet party to the CCM, and to promote and to progress Africa-wide universalization of the CCM.
5. Strengthen our cooperation and partnerships with international organizations and civil society organizations to draw upon their relevant expertise and support to accelerate efforts to universalize and implement the CCM.
6. Establish an African Working Committee on universalization to encourage all African States to accede to the CCM. The Working Committee will be spearheaded in the first instance by Ghana, Togo and Zambia.
7. Redouble efforts to work towards the adoption and promulgation of comprehensive national legislation and associated administrative measures required to implement all the obligations of the CCM. To assist in these efforts, Ghana has offered to convene an expert meeting on the elaboration of model legislation, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and civil society organizations.
8. Reach out and engage parliamentarians to ensure their involvement and support in joining the CCM and in the development of national legislation and other national implementation measures.
9. Ensure that clear directives are given to all competent government agencies about the requirements of the national implementation measures drawing, where appropriate, on model directives and model legislation prepared by some States Parties and the International Committee of the Red Cross.
10. Strengthen the use of designated focal points within the government to ensure the effective promotion, communication and coordination of efforts to implement and universalize the CCM, including the advancement of the above actions.

Agreed in Lomé, Togo, 23rd May 2013