



Republic of Ghana

STATEMENT

BY

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AG. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
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ARMS

AT THE

**4TH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE CONVENTION ON
PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF
CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW).**

United Nations Office, Geneva

14th to 25th November, 2011

Mr. President

Please allow me on behalf of the Ghana delegation to congratulate you on your election as the President of this Conference. We are convinced that, with your outstanding diplomatic skills and experience, the outcome of this conference would be ~~successful~~ ^{acceptable} to all. My delegation pledges its support to you, and would cooperate fully with you.

The Republic of Ghana, acknowledges the fundamental spirit of the Convention, which reflects the reasonable demand and good intention of numerous countries and people of the world, regarding prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons, which are excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects.

Ghana is committed to strengthening this global resolve, and any international collaboration that would enhance global safety and security as well as reduce excessive injury to human populations long after wars have seized. Ghana cannot therefore support any proposals that do not meet these criteria.

Ghana has also noted with interest the several claims from other colleague delegates that, certain types of cluster munitions being considered for usage under protocol VI would have a built in 'self-destruct' system, which do not pose serious threat to civilians. We have also noted other contending views to these claims. Clearly, these contrasting claims call for some deep consideration and a sort of mechanism for verification of the claims. Our position on this issue is that, further work is required in this regard.

Our position stems from the concern that if, certain category of cluster bombs are allowed deployment, countries may consider it as a weapon of choice, but we need to ask ourselves whether all countries particularly, least developing countries have the capacity to procure and stockpile these weapons safely. Today we are happy that cluster munitions are not so much of a problem like SALW in Africa but we cannot continue to hope so into the future when these categories of weapons can be used legally.

Mr. President we need to mitigate the unintended damage caused by cluster munitions to civilian innocent populations particularly when the evidence suggests their long term devastating effects after cessation of hostilities by warring factions rather than the commercial, industrial and economic considerations.

Ghana welcomes constructive contributions aimed at making the world safer without cluster munitions. It is our hope that not until we are able to verify the claims that cluster munitions do not cause excessive injury and harm to humanity which defeats our objective and commitments under the CCW and its earlier five Protocols, we should thread cautiously by rather prohibiting their use.

In conclusion Mr. President, while advocating for a system of verification, Ghana reaffirms our commitment for a comprehensive ban on the usage of all types of cluster munitions.

I thank you.