



STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO DURING THE 4TH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM), LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

DELIVERED BY

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Mr. President, Excellences, distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Allow me Mr President on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho to pass our vote of thanks to the government of Zambia for hosting this important Meeting. I would also like to express my delegation's appreciation for the warm hospitality and excellent welcome accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Lusaka. We are also indebted to the UNDP for the support they provided, which indeed made this Meeting a reality. That marks yet another positive step towards the world free of cluster munitions.

Mr President,

In recognition of the need to join global efforts to prevent the grave humanitarian consequences of these destructive weapons, Lesotho signed the Convention on the 3rd December 2008 and ratified it on the 28th May 2010. Therefore, Lesotho is proud to participate in this crucial humanitarian Meeting as a State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Lesotho is particularly aware of an unacceptable danger posed by cluster munitions, both during and after hostilities due to their indiscriminate and disproportionate nature.

Mr President,

Lesotho might not have experienced the presence of cluster munitions within her borders but she considers it her moral and also humanitarian obligation to ensure that the world is freed of inhumane and cruel weapons, hence she has tirelessly joined hands with the entire international community to express her solidarity and support to a call for the world free of cluster munitions. We support wholeheartedly all values and concerted efforts made by State Parties and international partners to make implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions a great success.

Mr President,

The Kingdom of Lesotho is currently working tirelessly on developing a national law which will fully domesticate CCM by banning the use of cluster munitions, their production, transfer and stockpile including penal sanctions for any violations thereof. In this regard the Ministry of Defence and National Security has been tasked to spearhead the process of developing the law through a specially established International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Committee. The IHL Committee, through the Office of Parliamentary Counsel has already started drafting the implementing legislation which will be presented before Cabinet for approval soon. Therefore, it becomes evident that Lesotho is in the final stages of the adoption of the CCM into her domestic legal system.

Mr President,

Lesotho is enacting this law to reiterate her position of supporting all efforts which will make Africa and the world, free of cluster munitions. It is therefore apparent that for the CCM to be a success, it must be universal. Mr President; allow me therefore, on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho to call upon all states which are not yet parties to the Cluster Munitions Convention to join us and the rest of the international community in the fight against humanitarian crisis caused by cluster munitions. Lesotho further encourages state parties and signatories to redouble their efforts in the area of universalization.

Finally Mr President, Lesotho looks forward to a fruitful and successful meeting ahead of us this week and we take this opportunity to assure you of our full support and cooperation as you lead us in our deliberations.

I thank you for your attention.