



## **GHANA'S PROGRESS REPORT ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Ghana has made substantial progress aligning with the provisions outlined in Article 9 of the convention and undertaking the directives specified in action 50 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP). These efforts underscore the nation's commitment to meeting international standards and fostering a safer environment by addressing pertinent issues related to disarmament and conventional weapons.

Although Ghana is not a landmine-affected State, it contends with the presence of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and limited Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), which include outdated and excess ammunition, explosives and bombs dating back to World War II. Additionally, Ghana has accumulated a stockpile of explosives due to its participation in peacekeeping operations. It is crucial to highlight that the existence of these ERWs and UXOs poses a substantial national security threat.

### **2.0 International Cooperation and Assistance**

To mitigate this threat, in compliance with Article 6 of the Convention and guided by Actions 42 to 47 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) on International Cooperation and Assistance, Ghana successfully disposed of 30 tons of outdated and surplus ammunition and bombs in 2022. The accomplishment was made possible through the support and assistance of the ECOWAS Commission, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and GIZ. Their aid ensured a secure and uncontaminated process following an unexpected explosion at Ghana's primary ammunition depot in January 2019. This assistance was a direct result of a Weapon and Ammunition Management (WAM) assessment conducted by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in July 2019.

Looking forward, Ghana is dedicated to advancing these endeavors. In October 2023, the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Halo Trust to receive additional support and assistance.

This collaboration aims to dispose of unsafe, outdated, and surplus bombs and ammunition, as well as to refurbish and modernize weapon and ammunition storage facilities. It also includes training for national security institution personnel in weapons and ammunition management and explosive ordnance disposal, along with the establishment of new ammunition storage facilities. The implementation of these initiatives is set to commence in early 2024.

### **3.0 Legal Framework or Legislation**

Ghana is finalizing its National Control List and the National Arms Commission Bill. Although Ghana is not directly affected by landmines, Anti-Personnel Mines and Explosives are included in the items slated for regulation by the National Control List under the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). This inclusion is also a part of the schedule integrated into the National Arms Control Bill.

In Ghana, the regulatory framework for the mining industry encompasses the Minerals and Mining Act of 2006, known as Act 703. This legislation provides the legal foundation for the country's mineral resource

management and outlines various facets of mining operations, including licensing, exploration, and environmental safeguards.

Complementing this act is the Minerals and Mining (Explosives) Regulations of 2012, designated as LI, 2177. This legislative instrument focuses specifically on the management and utilization of explosives within the mining sector. It details stringent guidelines and safety measures concerning the acquisition, storage, and use of explosives, aiming to ensure the safe and responsible handling of these materials within the mining industry.

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

The strides made by Ghana signify a proactive approach to enhancing security measures and effectively managing arms in accordance with global agreements, emphasizing Ghana's dedication to contributing to a safer and more stable world. Ghana remains steadfast in its commitment to the principles outlined in the convention prohibiting the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines.

The country's decision to sign the convention on December 4th, 1997, and subsequently ratify same on June 30th, 2000, showcases a firm dedication to the objectives set forth by the Convention.

This concerted effort resonates with the overarching global goal to alleviate the profound humanitarian consequences resulting from these destructive devices, highlighting Ghana's proactive role in contributing to a safer world devoid of the threats posed by anti-personnel landmines.