



Republic of Ghana



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STATEMENT BY

SAMUEL WILLIAMS YEBOAH

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

GHANA

DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE SESSION

OF THE

The Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP)

**The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

20 to 24 November, 2023
Geneva

Mr. President,

1. My delegation joins others in congratulating you on your election, as the president of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. Ghana expresses satisfaction in witnessing Eritrea's return to the Convention. We also extend our gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit and to all Committee Members engaged in promoting the Convention on behalf of all States Parties.

2. The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is a hallmark in the international efforts to mitigate humanitarian suffering, save lives and preserve human dignity through the restriction of methods and means of warfare which are not compatible with international humanitarian law and principles. Ghana has supported the Convention from its beginning, has been one of the first States to sign it and is a Party, when it entered into force.

We acknowledge with satisfaction the fact that 164 States are already Parties to the Convention and emphasize the importance of its universalization in order to fully achieve its ultimate goal, a world without anti-personnel landmines. We therefore urge all States still outside the Convention to exert every effort to accede to it as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

3. Ghana remains firmly committed to supporting international action towards the goal of world free of landmines by 2025. We acknowledge that a lot has been achieved over the last twenty-one years – i.e. since the adoption of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Unfortunately, anti-personnel mines continue to be used, particularly by non-state actors. Much remains to be done to eliminate the scourge of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. We encourage all States Parties to join in the ambitious pursuit of the 2025 goal of a world free of mines. We will only succeed on the strength of our collective effort.

Mr. President,

4. We take note of the reports, conclusions and recommendations presented by the Convention's committees, and commend all coordinators for their efforts and the excellent work carried out. We also welcome the convening by Germany the Eighth Pledging Conference aiming to commit resources to the ISU 2023 work plan, the Convention's Sponsorship Programme, and costs of the Meetings of the States Parties.

Lastly, Ghana reiterates its support to the Conference and its Review Mechanism, in particular the Oslo Action Plan (OAP), and the goal to complete demining effort under the Convention until 2025. We look forward to the discussions ahead.

I thank you.