

STATEMENT BY

THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

AT THE

**FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER OF ANTIPERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION
(RevCon5)**

CAMBODIA, 25TH – 29TH November, 2024

Mr. President,

Ghana joins earlier speakers to express its deepest appreciation to the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting this Fifth Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. We are grateful for the warm hospitality and the remarkable work done to facilitate our effective deliberations.

Ghana aligns with the statement to be delivered by the Republic of Zambia on behalf of the African Group and reiterate support for the creation of a Voluntary Trust Fund as proposed in the Action Plan to assist mine-affected states as well as accelerate the achievement of the Convention's objectives.

Mr. President,

Ghana remains deeply committed to disarmament and the elimination of weapons that pose significant threats to civilian populations. Although Ghana has not directly suffered from the effects of Anti-personnel mines, we share in the grave concern of the devastating impacts of these deadly weapons. Ghana, thus demonstrated her commitment to the Convention by ratifying the Convention on 30th June, 2000 and ensuring that by 1st December that same year, the Convention had come into force. We have since remained resolute in playing our part to ensure a mine free world.

In recent times, Ghana once again proved its commitment when we successfully hosted the 3-Day Regional Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Anti-Personnel Mines in West Africa and the Sahel Region from 13th to 15th February 2024. The conference served as an important platform for dialogue, cooperation, and a recommitment to mine action.

Mr. President,

Today, I take the opportunity to provide an update on Ghana's progress in establishing and strengthening national implementation measures under Article 9 of the Convention.

Ghana has taken decisive steps to amend the existing laws and administrative actions governing arms control. The Draft Small Arms Bill which is currently at the Ministry of the Interior for consideration and submission to Cabinet for approval enshrines the principles of the APMBC. In the same vein, a National Control List which is expansive and controls the import and export

of conventional arms, ammunition, its parts and components – which includes antipersonnel mines - is set to be submitted to Cabinet for approval into a working document.

The Draft Bill makes provisions which are consistent with the demands of Article 9 of the Convention and this includes:

1. **Effective arms control:** strengthens arms control and disarmament processes.
2. **Comprehensive Approach:** covers licensing, manufacturing, trade, import/export, of arms as well as public risk education.
3. **Governance:** establishes a structured Board for oversight and decision-making including competent authorities.
4. **International Compliance:** aligns with international treaties and protocols.
5. **Offences:** offers penal sanctions for offences.

Mr President,

In addition to the review of the national legislation, Ghana is committed to ensuring effective arms control through improved capacity of state institutions, border control, stockpile management, and risk education. The National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NACSA) which is the designated competent authority is in the process of decentralizing and has currently set up five (5) regional offices and eight (8) border offices including one (1) at the Ghana main port (Tema port). This will put the Commission in a better position to oversee compliance and ensure that all stakeholders and security institutions adhere to the obligations under the Convention and other international treaties.

In our commitment to foster national awareness of the Convention's objectives as well as that of broader arms control, Ghana has undertaken:

1. Extensive risk education and public awareness campaigns through media outreach, school educational workshops, transport sector campaigns and community engagements. We have educated the public about the dangers of illicit arms including mines and the importance of compliance with national laws.
2. Capacity Building for Law Enforcement: Security personnels especially at the border posts have been trained to detect and prevent the illicit trafficking of arms including mines and related materials.

Ghana recognizes the transnational nature of the challenges and threats posed by anti-personnel mines especially in the region we find ourselves. We therefore actively engage with regional

and international partners to enhance compliance measures. Currently, we are collaborating with neighbouring states to strengthen border security and share intelligence aimed at preventing the proliferation of arms including mines.

Mr. President

While we may have made commendable progress, we are not shy to admit that challenges still persist in Ghana and the West African Region. These challenges include limited resources for comprehensive monitoring and effective implementation of the Convention, gaps in technical expertise for mine clearance, and the need for expanded victim assistance programmes. We, therefore, call on international stakeholders to support in this regard as we strive together for a mine free world.

Ghana reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We remain determined to uphold our obligations under Article 9 and to contribute meaningfully to regional and global efforts to eliminate the threat of anti-personnel mines.

In conclusion, we commend the Committee on Cooperative Compliance for its efforts in supporting State Parties to fulfil their obligations and look forward to continuing our collaboration to achieve the humanitarian goals of the Convention in the West Africa and Sahel Region.

I thank you for your attention!