



PURPOSE OF MEETING

DELIVERED BY:

**HON. SHIRLEY AYORKOR BOTCHWAY, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

**AT THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN
IMPACT OF IMPROVISED ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES**

13TH TO 15TH FEBRUARY, 2024

MOVENPICK AMBASSADOR HOTEL, ACCRA

His Excellency, Dr. LY Thuch, President of the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, First Vice President of the Cambodia Mine Action Authority and Senior Minister attached to the Prime Minister of Cambodia,

His Excellency Ambassador Orchid Ramiandrasoa Razaaly, the EU Ambassador-Head of Delegation,

Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchway, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration,

Hon. Ambrose Dery, Minister for the Interior, MP for Nandom Constituency

Hon. Albert Kan-Dapaah, Minister for National Security,

Hon. Dominic Nitiwul, Minister for Defence, MP for Bimbila Constituency,

Rev. Prof. Frimpong-Manso (rtd) Board Chairman, National Commission on Small Arms & Light Weapons

Mr. Samuel Williams Yeboah, Executive Secretary, National Commission on Small Arms & Light Weapons,

Mr. Carlos Juan Ruan, the Director, Anti –Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementations Support Unit,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure and a sense of purpose that I address this esteemed gathering on the occasion of the Regional Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Improvised Anti-Personnel Mines which has convened with a shared commitment to confront the pressing humanitarian challenges posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The significance of this conference cannot be overstated, as we have representatives from all fifteen (15) member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), eight (8) African nations from the Sahel region, other African countries, as well as representatives from United Nations organizations, international bodies, and humanitarian organizations from thirteen (13) countries across Europe and the Americas herein gathered.

The diplomatic nature of this conference underscores the importance of international cooperation and collaboration in addressing the complex issues surrounding improvised anti-personnel mines. As representatives of our respective nations and organizations, we are called upon to engage in constructive dialogue, share best practices, and explore innovative solutions to the challenges at hand.

Our overarching purpose in convening here today is clear: to collectively seek measures to address the humanitarian impact of improvised anti-personnel mines and work towards sustainable solutions that promote peace, stability, and prosperity in affected regions. By fostering greater cooperation and coordination among ECOWAS member states, African nations, other states and international partners, we can enhance our collective capacity to mitigate the devastating consequences of landmines and explosive remnants of war on civilian populations.

Furthermore, this conference serves as a platform to reaffirm our shared commitment to upholding international humanitarian law, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

also referred to as Ottawa Treaty. Compliance with these legal instruments is essential to preventing further human suffering and fostering a safer, more secure world for all.

In pursuit of this purpose, let us approach the deliberations of this conference with a sense of purpose, determination, and solidarity. Together, we can make tangible progress towards addressing the humanitarian impact of improvised anti-personnel mines and building a future characterized by peace, prosperity, and dignity for all.

Thank you.