



WELCOME ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

HON. AMBROSE DERY, MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR

**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, Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana

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. Albert Kan-Dapaah, Minister for National Security,

Hon. Dominic Nitiwul, Minister for Defence, MP for Bimbilla

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 honour that I extend a warm welcome to all esteemed participants gathered here today for the Regional Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Improvised Anti-Personnel Mines. We are honoured to host all of you at this crucial event in the beautiful city of Accra, Ghana.

I am heartened by the diverse representation in this gathering as we embark on this significant endeavour. We are joined by representatives from all fifteen (15) member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as eight (8) African nations from the Sahel region. Additionally, we are honoured to host delegates from other various African countries, reflecting our collective commitment as Africans to addressing the pressing humanitarian challenges posed by improvised anti-personnel mines.

Furthermore, our conference brings together esteemed delegates from United Nations organizations, international bodies, and humanitarian organizations spanning thirteen (13) countries across Europe and the Americas. This inclusive participation underscores the global solidarity and collective determination to confront the grave humanitarian impact of improvised anti-personnel mines.

Ladies and gentlemen, the presence of such a diverse and distinguished assembly highlights the urgency and importance of our shared mission. Improvised anti-personnel mines continue to exact a devastating toll on civilian populations, causing untold suffering and hindering the socio-economic development of affected communities. It is therefore imperative that we unite our efforts to mitigate these humanitarian crises and work towards a safer and more prosperous future for all.

Over the course of the next three days, it is my hope that all participants would engage in constructive dialogue, exchange best practices, and explore innovative solutions to the challenges at hand.

A special welcome to the European Union, our sponsors, and the Anti-Personnel Mine Convention Implementation Support Unit (ISU), the organizers, whose dedicated efforts have made this conference a reality.

I urge all our brothers and sisters from outside Ghana to find some time out of your tight schedule to explore and enjoy Ghana, and feel at home. I have no doubt that you will experience the proverbial hospitality of Ghanaians and the great taste of Ghanaian dishes.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you a memorable stay, lovely interactions, fruitful discussions and a very successful meeting. May all these combine and translate into an impactful outcome that would lead to global peace, security and prosperity for all.

Once again, you are all warmly welcome to Ghana and this Conference.

AKWAABA!!!

Thank you.