

CLOSING ADDRESS

BY

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

AT THE

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

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024
MOVENPIC AMBASSADOR HOTEL, ACCRA**

Please check against delivery

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,

Rev. Prof. Frimpong-Manso (rtd) Board Chairman, 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,

I bring you once again warm greetings from His Excellency the Vice President of the republic of Ghana His Excellency Dr. Alhaji Mahamoud Bawumiah, the Hon Minister for the Interior Hon, Ambrose Dery, the Board and Staff of the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Allow me to convey the Government of Ghana's appreciation to the European Union, who are the sponsors of this Conference, the Anti-Personnel Mine Convention Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for choosing to convene this meeting here in Accra.

Excellencies distinguished delegates,

Over these three days you have discussed frankly and objectively the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction also known as the Mine Ban Treaty as it seeks to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines through the pursuit of four core aims: Ensuring universal adherence, clearing mined areas, destroying stockpiled mines, and assisting the victims.

While I read through aspects of the deliberations, I was impressed that we took time to highlight the need for continuous efforts achieve key aims of the Convention through: National Legislation, Cooperation and Assistance, Transparency and Exchange of Information, Facilitating Compliance, and Implementation Support are essential.

Excellencies distinguished delegates,

Your strong recommendations to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines through the pursuit of four core aims: Ensuring universal adherence, clearing mined areas, destroying stockpiled mines, and assisting the victims. is worth mentioning.

Excellencies distinguished delegates,

In conclusion, let me congratulate you once again on a work well done. It is my hope that the key recommendations of this Regional Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Improvised Anti-Personnel Mines will serve as a good basis for various policy interventions in most Member States. Let us walk the talk this time.

On behalf of the Government of Ghana, I wish you a safe flight back to your various destinations.

I thank you.