STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA

DELIVERED BY

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AT THE

CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS PROTOCOLS II AND V MEETING OF STATE PARTIES 2013

GENEVA

11-15 NOVEMBER, 2013
Republic of Ghana

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

The delegation of Ghana wishes to congratulate you as Chairman of this session and takes the opportunity to applaud your active work. We remain confident of a successful session, and looks forward to working closely with you in that regard.

In line with the decision by the government of Ghana to join the CCW and its related protocols, and further to our statement delivered at the Meeting of Experts on Amended Protocol II and Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War in April 2013, we are pleased to inform this meeting that all inter-ministerial consultations on the CCW and its related Protocols have since been completed.

A memorandum has accordingly been placed before the Ministerial Cabinet for consideration. It is our high expectation that by the end of next year (2014) Ghana would have become a State Party to the CCW. The delegation of Ghana wishes to express its profound gratitude to the CCW Implementation Support Unit for the very reliable support, so far extended.

Mr. Chairman,

Ghana has taken a keen interest in the objectives of the CCW and its various Protocols. The CCW remains the foundation of international humanitarian law that seeks to protect civilians from worse effects of conventional weapons. The efforts of the international community in implementing the CCW and its related Protocols are commendable. Most importantly, it has contributed in preventing while alleviating the suffering caused by explosive remnants of war as well as the devastating effects of Improvised Explosive Devices, largely used by non-state actors.

In West Africa, the uncontrolled access to conventional weapons, munitions and their use by non-state actors has sustained conflict, exacerbated violence, fueled crime and terrorism, promoted the culture of violence, violated international humanitarian law and impeded political, economic and social development. This situation has deepened our conviction that the CCW would help promote peace
and development especially in West Africa, in line with Ghana’s Foreign Policy objectives of promoting international peace and security for poverty reduction economic growth and prosperity for all.

Ghana remains committed to the peaceful coexistence of all people and in cases of violent conflicts to the respect of the laws of war and all other Conventions that regulate the choice of weapons and targets. In that regard, Ghana has not and does not procure or intend to procure weapons that will contribute to the denigration of these international rules at all times. Among our objectives, in that regard, are to ensure that these weapons were not proliferated on our territory or those of our neighbours though non-state actors as well.

In consistent with the afore-mentioned objectives, Ghana actively engaged in the negotiations that led to the conclusion of the Arms Trade Treaty and was one of the initial countries to sign it. We shall in the nearest future complete the necessary parliamentary processes on a bill already before the House of parliament for ratification of that Treaty as well.

Mr. Chairman,

While Ghana welcomes the progressive efforts aimed at the universalization of the CCW we further call for redoubling of our efforts to convince many more non-members to this laudable Convention and bring them on board. It is in this vein that the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons is facilitating a working relationship between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the CCW Implementation Support Unit to ensure that West African countries join the protocol.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.