

**STATEMENT BY GHANA AT PLENARY ON INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE: 20TH JUNE, 2024**

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Ghana has been a State Party to the Convention since its early days. While Ghana has never produced, stocked, transferred, used or been affected by anti-personnel mines, Ghana is a staunch supporter of the norm created by the Convention.

In this respect and in the spirit of cooperation that has been a strong pillar of this instrument, the republic of Ghana is proud to contribute her quota to efforts towards the noble cause of a mine-free Africa and mine-free world.

Most recently, the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which I represent, held a regional Conference on addressing the humanitarian impact of improvised anti-personnel mines. The Conference which took place in February 2024 saw the participation of 27 States Parties and 17 international and non-governmental organisations.

This was with the full support of the European Union and ISU, and I commend them highly for their assistance and cooperation in organising such a very successful Conference. We are very grateful to the European Union for its support to the National Commission in organising the Conference and also for making it possible for Ghana to participate in this Meeting through its global project. This is a clear demonstration of international cooperation and assistance which ought to be applauded.

The Accra Conference showed a high commitment to a mine-free Africa, expressed by our leaders with the participation of the Vice President of our Republic, the Minister for the Interior, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and Chief Director of National Security. We worked with our own local authorities including those in border areas.

The Conference was a great opportunity for Ghana to demonstrate its commitment to the Convention - for this we are extremely grateful to the Implementation support Unit for trusting the Commission with the organisation of the event that saw more than 100 participants.

This is very important to us because we find ourselves in a Region that is experiencing growing use of improvised mines at the hands of armed non-state actors. It is, therefore, important to play a proactive role to avoid contamination levels and prevent enormous human suffering.

Mr. Chair, the aforementioned Accra Conference Report will be launched today at 13:00 in Room B, and I would like to take this opportunity to invite all esteemed delegates to join Ghana and distinguished panelists from Cameroon, Mali, Columbia and other regional actors at the launch.

Once again, we thank the European Union and ISU for their support to Ghana.

Let us continue to enhance International Cooperation and Assistance to sustain our gains and achieve more results. I thank you, Mr. Chair.