

## ZIMBABWE

As part of our Defence Policy, Zimbabwe adheres to international law on armed conflict and will honour all international treaties to which it is party and meet all its obligations arising there from. Zimbabwe is committed to the international goals of arms control and disarmament. She also seeks to strengthen international and regional efforts to contain and prevent the proliferation of small arms, mines, conventional armaments and weapons of mass destruction.

As such it goes without saying that Zimbabwe is seized with global efforts to ban the use of cluster munitions and will work diligently towards accelerating the conclusion of consultations with relevant stakeholders on the country's accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. As you are without a doubt aware, Zimbabwe currently faces unique political challenges which have lengthened the consultation process that must be undertaken on such issues.

However, suffice it to say that as Zimbabwe, we have already demonstrated our commitment to international norms in warfare through our signature and ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty. Zimbabwe has also been adversely affected by the proliferation of land mines which have deprived our people of access to much needed communal and commercial farming land. We have also signed the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions that seek to ban all production and use of biological and chemical weapons and the destruction of all such weapons and their production facilities. Further to this, we are currently actively involved in the negotiations towards an Arms Trade Treaty under the aegis of the United Nations.

Finally we would like to express our appreciation to the efforts of the organisers of this Conference for their sterling work in providing this platform for the exchange of views on and increasing awareness of the CCM.