



STATEMENT FOR GHANA CONFERENCE

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

The Zambian delegation wishes to convey, through you, Chair, our sincere thanks and gratitude to Ghana for hosting this Accra Conference and for the hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful seaside city of Accra. We also wish to thank Norway for the financial support towards the hosting of this conference.

Zambia, despite not producing, using or stockpiling Cluster Munitions, was among the first thirty (30) countries that ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. She joined the

Convention on 3rd December, 2008 and ratified on 12th August, 2009. Zambia has since played a critical role in the universalisation efforts of the Convention.

Zambia recalls the role that she played at the inception of the Convention on Cluster Munitions during the diplomatic process undertaken from 2006 to 2008 in Norway. This diplomatic process, otherwise known as the Oslo Process led to the negotiation, adoption and signing of the Convention in 2008. This is despite the fact that Zambia does not produce, use, stockpile or transfer Cluster Munitions.

In March – April, 2008, Zambia hosted a regional conference for Africa in Livingstone. This conference helped generate significant support for the Convention from African countries. Since that Conference, the Convention on Cluster Munitions has seen a significant number of States joining the Convention. Considering the fact that the Convention is very young, the

number of States that have joined is very significant . Zambia is very hopeful that with the efforts of every State Party here present, the Convention will see many more countries acceding to the CCM in the shortest possible time. With this in mind, Zambia wishes to encourage all those countries which are yet to accede to the convention to consider doing so as soon as possible.

Delegates will further recall that Zambia served as Vice-President at the first Meeting of States Parties held in Lao People's Democratic Republic in November, 2010. Zambia feels that she has played her part in the advancement of a Cluster Munitions-free world and will continue to do so. Zambia's desire has been to see the African continent without the proliferation of these dangerous weapons which bring devastation both during and after their use. In this regard, I wish to reiterate Zambia's commitment to ensuring that the African continent achieves full universalisation of the CCM.

This will rid us of the fear of the weapons being used on our soil.

I thank you.