

**STATEMENT BY THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN STATES
WHICH SUBSCRIBED TO THE LIVINGSTONE DECLARATION ON CLUSTER
MUNITIONS - DUBLIN DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS 19 -
31 MAY, 2008**

MR. CHAIRMAN, EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY ACCORDED TO MY DELEGATION SINCE OUR ARRIVAL AND FOR THE EXCELLENT FACILITIES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, ZAMBIA TAKES THE FLOOR ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP.

AND WE REITERATE OUR COMMITMENT TO ALL THE WORK DONE FROM OSLO TO DUBLIN AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT HUMANITY WILL BE SERVED WITH A TREATY THAT WILL MAKE THIS WORLD A SAFER PLACE TO BE IN. THE PAST ONE AND A HALF YEARS HAVE BEEN VERY INVOLVING FOR MANY AND INDEED IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT THE WORLD HAS FOUND YET ANOTHER ISSUE THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER TO LOOK AT POSSIBILITIES OF CULTIVATING HUMAN SAFETY. MY DELEGATION SALUTES ALL EFFORTS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT INTO THIS MATTER.

ZAMBIA, **MR. CHAIRMAN**, WAS PRIVILEGED TO HOST 39 AFRICAN STATES AT THE LIVINGSTONE CONFERENCE ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS FROM 31ST MARCH TO 1ST APRIL, 2008 AT WHICH SHE WAS APPOINTED BY CONSENSUS TO COORDINATE AFRICA'S WORK ON THIS ISSUE. AT THAT MEETING, THE AFRICAN STATES DISCUSSED THE ISSUE AND THE FINAL OUTCOME WAS THE LIVINGSTONE DECLARATION WHICH DECLARED THAT *and I quote* "**ALL CLUSTER MUNITIONS THAT CAUSE UNACCEPTABLE HARM MUST BE SUBJECT TO THE NEGOTIATIONS OF A LEGALLY BINDING INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN DUBLIN THAT PROHIBITS THEIR PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING, TRANSFER AND USE. SUCH PROHIBITION SHOULD BE TOTAL AND IMMEDIATE FROM THE CONVENTION'S ENTRY INTO FORCE TO PREVENT FURTHER SUFFERING**" *end of quote*. THIS IS THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR OUR REGION. IT WAS CLEAR IN LIVINGSTONE THAT AFRICA IS CONCERNED ABOUT VICTIMS OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS AND THAT THERE IS A DEFINITE NEED TO STOP THEIR FURTHER OCCURRENCE. IN THIS REGARD, AFRICA DEMONSTRATED ITS DESIRE TO SEE A TREATY THAT WILL FOCUS ON THE NEGATIVE HUMANITARIAN EFFECTS RATHER THAN CARESS THE THOUGHT OF UPHOLDING THEIR MILITARY UTILITY WHICH HAS AN INDISCRIMINATE EFFECT.

AFRICA FURTHER EXPRESSED THE NEED TO HAVE A TREATY THAT WILL FOSTER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WHICH WILL ATTEND TO VICTIMS, CLEARANCE, AND STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION. THE NEXT TWO WEEKS PROVIDE US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCOMPLISH THESE NOBLE GOALS. AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE RESOLVED NOT TO BE THE DUMPING GROUND THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FOR OBSOLETE AND DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS AND LOOK TOWARDS NEGOTIATING A TREATY THAT WILL KEEP OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER. WE ARE STILL GRAPPLING WITH THE DIFFICULTIES

OF CLEARING LANDMINES. WE DO NOT NEED ANOTHER REASON TO EXPOSE OUR PEOPLE TO AN EVEN MORE DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON.

WE ARE TIRED OF WARS IN AFRICA AND IT IS TIME WE SAW THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY SPENT ON WAR BEING SPENT ON OUR DEVELOPMENT AND THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY. MR, CHAIRMAN, AFRICA REMAINS OPEN TO ANY ALTERATIONS TO THE DRAFT TREATY THAT WILL ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF HUMANITY AND THEREBY ELIMINATING VICTIMS OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

WE APPRECIATE THE VARIOUS POSITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD. AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE NEED A TREATY BY WHICH POSTERITY WILL JUDGE US FAVOURABLY. WHILE IT IS TRUE WAR IS WAGED IN OUR MINDS, WE HAVE A DUTY TO ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT FAN IT BY CREATING WEAPONS THAT CAN OBLITERATE OUR EXISTENCE.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH REACHING COMMON GROUND SO THAT WE CAN COME UP WITH A TREATY WHICH IS REPRESENTATIVE, AS LONG AS IT PUTS AT ITS CORE, THE EXISTENCE AND SAFETY OF HUMANITY IN LINE WITH THE LIVINGSTONE DECLARATION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO FRUITFUL DELIBERATIONS HERE.

I THANK YOU