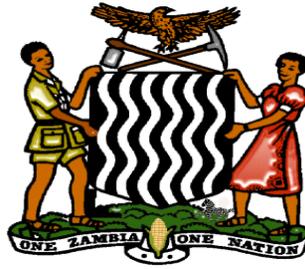


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Republic of Zambia

**PRESENTATION BY ZAMBIA ON UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CCM & THE
4MSP**

**LOME REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE UNIVERSALISATION
OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS,
LOME TOGO, 22ND – 23RD MAY, 2013.**

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor

The Zambian delegation would like to thank the government of Togo for hosting this Regional Conference on Universalisation of the CCM and for the hospitality accorded to us since we arrived in this beautiful city of Lome. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the government of Ghana for its cooperation in organising this conference and the Government of Norway for the financial support towards the hosting of the Conference.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may all be aware, the objective of this Regional Conference is to extend the reach of the Convention throughout Africa by developing strategies to overcome the challenges faced by states on the path of considering ratification of, or accession to the CCM and developing strategies to assist States Parties in implementing consistent national measures to strengthen the CCM and prevent any future use of cluster munitions.

Zambia wishes to commend the efforts of all States parties that have been advocating for more countries to join the Convention. We believe that Regional dialogues such as this one help to achieve adherence to the requirements of the Convention. Zambia believes that the efforts that have been made over the last few years by African countries, most of whom are present here, have helped the

Convention to be where it is today. You are, therefore, encouraged to continue with the promotion of the objectives of the CCM at different international fora.

Delegates may wish to recall that Zambia has played an active role in the advancement of the Convention on Cluster Munitions having taken part in negotiations that led to the signing of the convention and in all meetings of the Convention. Despite the country not being highly affected, Zambia has continued to play a leadership role in the life of the Convention.

Zambia was humbled to be nominated President-designate and host of the 4MSP during the 3MSP held in Oslo, Norway in September, 2012. We appreciate the confidence shown in us to steer the Convention towards the next level as we head for full universalisation.

You may wish to note that the Zambian Government has chosen Universalisation as the theme for the 4th Meeting of States Parties (4MSP) to be held in Lusaka from 9th to 13th September, 2013. During her Presidency, Zambia aims to build on the work done by the previous Presidencies and will work towards achieving total universalisation for the Convention. This is because Zambia strongly

believes that implementation of the Convention lies in its universalisation.

Zambia acknowledges and applauds all the efforts and initiatives being made to achieve full universalisation especially for the African continent. We note the impressive record of the convention which now boasts of 112 members in its short life. However, while the record is impressive given the age of the Convention, it is our belief that more can be done to speed up the rate of joining the Convention in order for full universalization to be achieved.

It is Zambia's desire and hope that Africa should be the first to achieve full universalisation because even though 98% of Africa does not produce, use or stockpile the weapon, Africa is the most affected and thus the need to ensure that this deadly weapon is totally rejected. We are pleased to note that out of 54 African States, 42 have joined the Convention although only half of that have ratified. This is not a bad record but more can be done to accelerate the rate of accession for the Continent.

I am proud to mention here that almost all the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states have joined the Convention. Only two countries are yet to join. Zambia's aim as

President of the 4MSP is to engage the two remaining SADC members as well as other countries on the Continent to ensure that they join the Convention.

To achieve full universalisation for Africa, there is need for the Continent to go a step further in finding other methods that could help achieve this objective.

Zambia has come up with a concept Paper on Universalisation which highlights the challenges of universalisation and the need to come up with new ways to achieve this. In this paper, Zambia expresses the need for a collective efforts by all countries in order to create a cluster munitions free world. It is our sincere hope that the 4MSP will stimulate further debate on the subject of universalization of the Convention and also that together we will identify new strategies to bring on board all countries.

Distinguished Delegates,

Given the above scenario, Zambia believes that it is time to bring on board policy makers to encourage political will. The involvement of our political leadership will provide the much-needed political

impetus that will enhance the resolve required to fulfil the obligation for universalisation of the Convention.

For this reason, Zambia, as host of the 4MSP, has included a high level segment to the 4MSP in which Ministers of Foreign Affairs are expected to participate. Our Minister of Foreign Affairs has already sent out invitation letters to all his counterparts world over to participate in the High Level Segment of the 4MSP. I wish to reiterate our call through all of you here present to encourage your Ministers to participate in the 4MSP in Lusaka as one way of encouraging states to ratify or accede to the Convention.

As you are well aware, Zambia will play host to more than 800 delegates from all over the world representing States Parties, Signatories and Observer States as well as international organisations and Civil Society from 9th to 13th September, 2013. Preparations for the four-day Conference have reached an advanced stage and Zambia will spare no effort to ensure that all delegates have a memorable Conference.

Finally, Distinguished delegates, It is our hope that this conference will highlight more on the strategies to overcome challenges for

those wishing to join the Convention and to assist States Parties in national implementation measures.

We have no doubt that the drafting and finalization of the Lomé Declaration during this Regional Conference will help to extend the reach of the convention to all African countries.

I thank you for your kind attention and look forward to receiving you all in Lusaka in September!