



**STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA AT THE SECOND MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS HELD IN BEIRUT, LEBANON FROM 12 – 16 SEPTEMBER 2011**

As Zambia is taking the floor for the first time, I wish to join previous delegations in appreciating the warm hospitality accorded to us by the Lebanese government and its people since our arrival in this beautiful city of Beirut.

I also wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as President of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. My delegation is confident that under your capable leadership, this meeting will be a great success. Furthermore, I assure your Presidency of Zambia's support in the execution of this noble task.

**Mr. President, Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,**

As we meet again to review Progress made since the last meeting of States Parties nearly a year ago, my delegation continues to urge those who are still not States Parties to the Convention to join without delay and consolidate the successes achieved so far by the Convention. In this regard, Zambia is pleased with the ratification by Afghanistan and the just announced accession by Swaziland. My delegation looks forward to a time when our region of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) can be the first to be free of cluster munitions contamination and therefore focus on the economic development of our countries. The cost of ridding our land of these weapons diverts already limited financial resources from other pressing needs such as better health and education services for our people. Added to that, contaminated land limits economic activities such as farming, tourism and industrial development thus depriving affected countries of the much needed land for these endeavours.

Mr. President, my delegation reiterates its position that we will not accept a standard lower than that set by the CCM whatever the arguable military justification to the contrary. We appeal to all actors to maintain the premise that the primary concern should be the humanitarian considerations that brought the Convention into being in the first place.

Mr President, it is this belief that prompted Zambia to take up the challenge to work as the Coordinator of the Working Group on the General Status and Operation of the Convention. Zambia was actively involved in the Oslo Process and continues to be committed to ensuring that our collective objectives are achieved. We continue to urge others to join the Convention and consolidate the successes achieved so far by the Convention. Furthermore, we encourage States and non-State actors to cooperate and assist each other in meeting the obligations of the Convention.

**Mr. President, Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,**

In conclusion, my delegation would like to put on record my Government's continued commitment to ensuring that through the Convention we can all work "together for a safer life".

I thank you.