



Republic of Zambia

INTERVENTION STATEMENT ON CLEARANCE OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS

The Coordinators

Allow me to commend Switzerland and Laos for their efforts in the preparation of this session on clearance, which remains the bedrock of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In particular, we wish to commend Lao PDR for their efforts in trying to clear their vast contaminated land and for sharing their experiences with this meeting. Having visited Laos, it is clear that their problem is huge and the need for an expanded international assistance is urgent, if they have to meet their deadline. It is our hope that those countries that have successfully cleared their land will render the necessary practical advice to Laos and all others that may still be struggling with clearance of Cluster Munitions.

Finally we wish to appeal to Donor countries and other cooperating partners to assist countries in need of financial assistance in their efforts to survey contaminated land and clear for domestic use. This is critical for the successful implementation of the Convention.

I thank you