



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Mr. President

I wish to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to make an intervention statement. Since this is the first time that Zambia is taking the floor, allow me to congratulate the Federal Republic of Germany for its Presidency of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties (7MSP), and to express our sincere gratitude to Ambassador Michael Biotino for his leadership during the last year and for ably steering the preparatory work for this meeting. Allow me also to thank all the coordinators of the various thematic areas who worked tirelessly throughout the year 2016/2017. We note with satisfaction the progress made in the various thematic areas according to the reports received during this meeting. Lastly, I wish to commend the Implementation Support Unit, Madam Sheila and her team, for their tireless work in facilitating the implementation of the Convention.

Allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome the Republics of Benin and Madagascar to the Convention following their accession to the Convention.

On National Implementation Measures, Zambia recognises the importance of adoption of domestic legislation aimed at imposing penal sanctions to prevent violation.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates

Although Zambia has not yet domesticated the Convention on Cluster Munitions into its domestic laws, we are happy to inform this meeting that the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is already domesticated and we believe that the laws in place under the APMBC are sufficient. This notwithstanding, efforts are being made to include the Convention on Cluster Munitions into our domestic laws. Since our last report on the issue, we have made significant strides in ensuring that our bill goes to Parliament. You may wish to note in this regard that the reason for the delay in domesticating the CCM is administrative rather than political.

We are happy to report that the bill has been placed on the queue for Parliamentary consideration. It is our hope that this will be done sooner than later.

Finally, Mr. President, allow me to take this opportunity to assure this Meeting of States Parties of Zambia's continued commitment to the Convention and to ensuring that the Convention is universalised by 2020. We believe that the target of 130 members by 2020 is achievable if all States Parties take it upon themselves to speak to their neighbours who have not signed up. In this regard, we pledge to engage our neighbours at every opportunity during regional and bilateral meetings.

I thank you, Mr. President