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Republic of Zambia

**STATEMENT FOR THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE FIRST
REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER
MUNITIONS
DUBROVNIK, CROATIA.
7TH TO 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2015.**

Zambia Mine Action Centre,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
LUSAKA.

July, 2015

✚ HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. ZORAN MILANOVIC, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA AND INCOMING PRESIDENT OF THE 1ST REVIEW CONFERENCE,

✚ YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT PRESENT

✚ THE PRESIDENT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ENRIQUE CASTILLO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF COSTA RICA

✚ THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

✚ DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES TO THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE, INVITED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Zambia, His Excellency, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, and the People of the Republic of Zambia to sincerely thank the Government of Croatia for extending an invitation to Zambia to participate in the high level segment of the First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and for the hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Dubrovnik.

It gives me great pleasure to join those who have spoken before me in congratulating the Prime Minister of Croatia, His Excellency Mr. Zoran Milanovic, on his election as President of the First Review Conference. Zambia acknowledges Croatia's contributions to the convention, being one of the early proponents and one of the first to sign the Convention when it opened up for signature. We are, therefore, confident that Mr. President and his team will steer the proceedings at this Review Conference to a successful conclusion. I wish to assure you, Mr. President, of Zambia's unwavering support during the tenure of your Presidency.

Allow me to thank the President of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties, His Excellency, Mr. Enrique Castillo, Minister of Foreign Minister of Costa Rica for successfully completing his tenure as President of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties and for the work done, together with other Stakeholders, in preparing for the First Review Conference.

I also wish to express my gratitude to all the coordinators of the various thematic areas of the Convention. Their work is of great importance because it provides us with the opportunity to assess our performance in as far as the Convention is concerned.

MR. PRESIDENT

The presence of so many representatives of governments and international organisations, among others, clearly demonstrates the seriousness and importance we all attach to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. You may recall that the Convention was born out of focused and constructive efforts of multiple actors working in partnership towards a shared objective which is aimed at ending all forms of suffering caused by Cluster Munitions. A lot has been achieved over the last few years and I wish to commend all those who have contributed to the success we boast of today. I am confident that the Review Conference will present us with an opportunity to review the progress we have made so far and allow us to deliberate on all matters which will be tabled for discussion and also provide us with an opportunity to fine tune issues of concern in order to further champion the cause of the Convention.

I am confident that by the end of the Conference, the shape and scope of the Convention will be acceptable to all. My delegation is also hopeful that the high level segment of the Review Conference will generate the much needed political support towards universalization of the convention.

MR. PRESIDENT

I note with satisfaction the steady increase in the number of States Parties in the last couple of years. Today, the Convention boasts of One Hundred and Seventeen (117) members, of which ninety-five (95) are States Parties. In collaboration with our partners, the onus is on all States Parties to ensure that this momentum is sustained. I, therefore, wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all States Parties, Civil Society and other organisations for the successes scored. I also wish to join others before me in congratulating those countries which have ratified or acceded to the Convention since the last meeting of States Parties. I wish to warmly welcome Canada, Iceland, Rwanda, Slovakia and South Africa for being the newest members of the CCM family.

Let me, however, hasten to state that, while it is evident that a lot of progress has been made in universalizing the Convention and reducing the threat of indiscriminate harm to humanity, it is still alarming to note that the number of casualties recorded in the last two years has increased. This is owing to the increased use by some countries in war torn areas. We condemn the continued use of Cluster Munitions on civilian populations by some countries such as South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine, among others. The need to universalize has, therefore, now become urgent.

MR. PRESIDENT

We are happy to note that the President of the Review Conference has submitted documents before us for consideration during this Review Conference. Among the documents submitted include the Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) which establishes a list of priorities for both States Parties and other implementing actors and also serves as a tool to monitor progress of the Convention.

While Zambia does not have any commitments under the Convention apart from the annual report under Article 7, she has always pursued the universalisation agenda of the Convention. This is because of our belief that for the Convention to be effective, it has to be fully

universalized. In this regard, Zambia fully supports the Dubrovnik Action thematic area on *Universalisation* which discusses adherence to the Convention; cooperation and assistance on universalisation; stigmatization; and compliance.

MR. PRESIDENT

One of the most critical issues of concern for the last five years has been the financing model of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention. Regrettably, States Parties have failed to agree on which funding model to adopt for the financing of the ISU.

As Zambia, I wish to state that we support a financing model that would ensure sustainability and predictability of the finances and thus the effective and efficient operations of the ISU. We believe that this will strengthen the principles and ownership of the Convention.

MR. PRESIDENT

I note with satisfaction that the establishment of the permanent Implementation Support Unit (ISU) has progressed very well during the last one year. We are indeed pleased that the recruitment of the Director has been concluded and the appointment done in accordance with the requirements of the States Parties.

I, therefore, wish to join in congratulating *MS. SHEILA MWEEMBA on her* appointment to head the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM and wish her the very best in her endeavors. I have all the confidence that she will execute her duties to the expectations of the States Parties. I wish to assure her and the rest of the ISU Staff of Zambia's absolute cooperation and support.

MR. PRESIDENT

I also wish to sincerely thank the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), particularly Madame Sara Sekkens and her team who acted as the interim Implementation Support Unit since we started, for bringing the Convention to where it is today. It is no doubt that their work has

been exceptionally valuable over the years. It is our sincere hope that the new Director and her team will tap into their knowledge and experience for the benefit of the Convention.

Finally, let me reaffirm our commitment to the Convention so as to ensure a cluster munition free world.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION