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**INTERVENTION STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL
COPPPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

Zambia Mine Action Centre

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

LUSAKA

Coordinators, Distinguished delegates

Thank you for this opportunity to make an intervention statement on international cooperation and assistance.

International cooperation and assistance are very important for the well-functioning of the Convention as it allows States Parties with obligations to clear contaminated areas, destroy stockpiles and assist victims, to work together with those States Parties which are in a position to assist financially or technically. In this regard, I wish to commend the Coordinators of the working group on International Cooperation and Assistance for their outstanding work during the past 12 months. This work has enabled us to gauge how far we have gone in implementing the provisions of the Convention.

As stated in the San Jose Progress Report we note with satisfaction the progress made in the Convention particularly in the last year with regard to international cooperation and assistance. We applaud the efforts of many States in dealing with the challenges of clearance and Victim assistance, among others. We commend the efforts that have been made by those States with financial capability to supplement the efforts of States in need either financially, technically or through exchanges of best practices. Indeed this has assisted in making meaningful change in the lives of affected communities. The information shared

during this meeting and the meetings in the past have assisted all of us to gain from each other's experiences.

The challenges, however, still remain. As highlighted in the Progress report, there is a general lack of resources to fulfil the various obligations under stockpile destruction, Victim Assistance and Clearance. There is, therefore, urgent need to identify and mobilise resources for purposes of meeting the various obligations.

The visit to Lao PDR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam by the President of the 4MSP helped to increase Zambia's understanding of the situation on the ground and understand the difficulties that affected countries endure as a result of UXO contamination and the presence of a large number of victims. During the intersessional meeting in April, 2014, Zambia called for increased international cooperation and assistance to affected countries. We wish to reiterate this call on States Parties which are able, to assist States in need.

In conclusion, Coordinator(s), allow me once again to commend all concerned parties for the part played in facilitating the clearance, risk reduction education and victim assistance programmes. We look forward to this meeting coming up with answers to the challenges that the convention faces with regard to resource mobilisation and exchanges of ideas and best

practices to enable affected countries to meet their obligations under the Convention.

I THANK YOU.

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