

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY HON WYLBUR SIMUUSA, MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
4MSP, 10th SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Good evening Fellow Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and
Gentlemen.**

You are all welcome to the garden city of Lusaka!

We are privileged to have as our distinguished Guest of Honour, His Excellency Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata, President of the Republic of Zambia. This is a manifestation of the importance that Zambia attaches to the Universalisation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Zambia is neither a producer, a user, nor a stockpiler of Cluster Munitions but of course, we are State Party to the Convention and was among the first thirty (30) countries that signed the Convention in Dublin in December 2008. Although Zambia is not highly affected by the problem of cluster munitions, we have noted that communities in many countries have, for many years, suffered untold effects of these deadly weapons.

Zambia's decision to accede to the Convention was borne out of a moral conscious that civilians, particularly the women and children, should never have to die or be exposed to such dangerous and indiscriminate weapons.

It was for this reason that we accepted, with a great sense of humility and responsibility, to host the 4th Meeting of States Parties and assume the Presidency of the Convention.

**Honourable Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is now my singular honour to call upon His Excellency the President, to make his statement to this august gathering.

I thank you!