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**Statement at the Fourth Meeting
of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

By Madam Dong Zhihua

Head of the Chinese Observer Delegation,

Counsellor of the Dept. Of Arms Control and Disarmament

MFA, China

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Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Observer Delegation, to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of this important meeting. I am fully confident that, with your wisdom and diplomatic experience, you will guide this meeting to a great success. Yesterday, H.E. President Michael Chilufya Sata attended the opening ceremony, highlighting the importance the Zambian Government attaches to this event. Taking this opportunity, I'd like to express my gratitude to the Zambian Government for hosting this meeting and the generous hospitality extended to us.

Mr. President,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is an important achievement in addressing the humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions. Since entry into force of the CCM, significant progress has been made in terms of universality of the Convention, destruction of storage and stockpile, victim assistance and clearance of cluster munition remnants. In the meantime, the international community is still confronted with the grave challenges posed by vast amount of cluster munition remnants, which is still threatening people's life and property and severely retarding socio-economic development of the affected countries.

China is of the view that irresponsible use and transfer is the main cause of global humanitarian concerns over cluster munitions. To resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means in full compliance with the UN Charter is the fundamental safeguard against further damages caused by cluster munitions. It is of vital importance to explicitly establish the 'the user to clear' principle, i.e. the users of cluster munitions shall bear the responsibility for clearance of cluster munition remnants. The stark reality on the ground also calls for enhanced international cooperation with emphasis on mobilizing more support for developing countries severely affected by cluster

munitions and providing victims with timely and effective assistance.

Mr. President,

China all along pursues an independent foreign policy of peace and a defensive national defense policy and attaches great importance to humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions. Over the years, China has played an active and constructive part in relevant international efforts under the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. In this connection, China is of the hope that the international community continue working for a realistic and feasible solution to the issue of cluster munitions, taking into consideration both humanitarian concerns and legitimate military needs of each country.

Since 1998, China has provided humanitarian assistance valuing approximately 60 million RMB to more than 40 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, significantly enhancing these countries' capacity for clearance of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. 2010 marks the first year China started its program of assistance designated for victims of cluster munitions. In 2012, China provided Lebanon and the Laos with assistance in kind to victims of cluster munitions. Currently, we are working on delivering assistance in kind to victims of landmines and cluster munitions in Sri Lanka and Jordan respectively.

Mr. President,

China appreciates the spirit of humanitarianism embodied in CCM and is ready to cooperate with the States Parties to the Convention. We would like to work closely with the Republic of Zambia and other countries in a bid to make new contributions to future efforts on addressing the issue of cluster munitions.

At last, I would like to wish the meeting a complete success.

Thank you, Mr. President.