



Republic of Zambia

## **ZAMBIA'S INTERVENTION STATEMENT ON UNIVERSALISATION**

Mr. President, Distinguished delegates

Thank you for giving me the floor

May I take this opportunity to join other delegations in welcoming the seven countries that have joined the Convention since the Third Meeting of States Parties which took place in Oslo, Norway in September, 2012. These include, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Chad, Iraq, Liechtenstein, Nauru, Peru and Andorra. We congratulate them for having made this important step to ratify or accede to the Convention, thereby renouncing the production use and stockpiling of Cluster Munitions.

We note with profound satisfaction that the Convention has continued its steady progress towards universalization and with each new States Party, the Convention is getting nearer to achieving full universalization.

We further note the many achievements that have been scored during the short life of the Convention. These successes are a result of the commitment of all members of the Convention. I am happy to note that even some countries that are not yet party to the Convention have pledged not to use Cluster munitions.

This shows that everyone is becoming increasingly aware of the fact that Cluster Munitions is no longer a weapon of choice. We, therefore, want to take this opportunity to applaud all States Parties, Signatory States, concerned Organisations and Civil Society for their efforts towards a cluster munitions-free world.

We remain of the view that for the Convention to be fully implemented, there has to be a comprehensive global ban on Cluster Munitions, supported by all States in the world. This will resolve the problem and bring greater peace and security to civilians. We wish to reiterate Zambia's desire to see that Africa is the first continent to achieve full universalisation of the Convention. In this regard, we pledge to continue our active involvement in regional activities and also to convince other countries particularly in our region to come on board.

Zambia is concerned that some of the countries that have not signed the Convention are among the countries that are major producers and users of these indiscriminate weapons. Their insistence to remain outside the convention is disheartening because the world remains in danger of being affected by Cluster Munitions. We owe it to humanity to ensure a Cluster Munitions free world. We all, therefore need to encourage those countries outside of the Convention to quicken their internal processes and join for the sake of humanity.

Zambia acknowledges the seriousness and lethal effects of Cluster Munitions on civilians wherever they have been used. Zambia has thus continued to work with other countries in the region to promote universalization. This year, Zambia joined Ghana and Togo in organising the African Regional Seminar on Universalisation. This was aimed at encouraging African Countries to become party to the Convention. We, therefore, look forward to maintaining the

momentum on the efforts to make the Convention an effective international binding instrument on all States in order to restore human dignity.

Despite, the many challenges that the Convention is faced with, the Zambian delegation is hopeful that with the collective will to create a cluster munitions free world based on political will, full universalization will be achieved sooner than later. We, therefore, applaud the Ministers and High level representatives who participated in the 4MSP and hope that their involvement will just be the beginning of such interaction with political leadership of States Parties in order for us to achieve what we set out to achieve.