

**STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA ON GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS  
MADE DURING THE FIFTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
(5MSP)**

Mr. President

Allow me to once again congratulate you for assuming the Presidency and for hosting the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Rest assured that Zambia will be available to share her experiences of the Presidency with your country.

Mr. President

It is nearly five years and the Convention is nearing its first review Conference. I note with satisfaction that so much has been achieved in the short period that the Convention has been in existence. I wish to echo the sentiments of other delegations on the strides that have been made and wish to congratulate the wider membership for these successes. Particularly, Mr. President, I note that the membership has in the past few years grown although there has been a slow-down in the last two years.

Only two countries have joined the convention during the last one year with the Republic of Congo having deposited the instrument of ratification yesterday on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2014. I therefore, wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the

Republic of Congo for being the newest member of the Convention. Mr. President, I am confident, that with the universalisation efforts in the last year by all Stakeholders, there is a good chance that many more countries will have joined the Convention as we approach the First Review Conference. Zambia, therefore, looks forward to welcoming more states to the CCM family.

Mr. President, it is evident that the Convention has also faced a number of challenges. We note with sadness the continued use of these deadly weapons by both states and non states actors in some countries and condemn these actions in the strongest terms and call upon all those using these weapons to stop forthwith. We therefore, welcome any efforts to ensure that those responsible for use of cluster munitions are indentified and condemned.

As we approach the review conference, there is need for us to intensify our campaign of stigmatising the weapon. It is in this regard that I wish to encourage all of us present here to continue speaking with one voice and also condemn those countries who have continued to produce and stockpile Cluster Munitions in total disregard of the suffering that this weapon inflicts on innocent civilians particularly women and children. We are saddened by the fact that millions of dollars are being invested in producing the weapon instead of alleviating the poverty that affects millions of people around the world.

Mr. President, posterity will judge us harshly if we sit idle and do not double up our efforts in ensuring the end to human suffering and creating a safe environment for all. It is in this regard that I wish to pledge Zambia's continued commitment to the Convention and to ensuring that the voice calling for the end of the production, use, stockpiling and transfer of Cluster Munitions is louder than ever.

**I thank you**