



## Republic of Zambia

Mr. President

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me the floor.

The Zambian delegation wishes to convey, through you, Mr. President, our sincere thanks and gratitude to Lebanon for successfully hosting the 2MSP and to Japan and Portugal for their efforts in coordinating the universalisation of the Convention.

Zambia supports the universalisation of the convention and applauds the efforts being made to achieve this objective. It is our belief that the strength of the convention lies in universalisation and we support every effort to encourage States not party to join the convention. It was for this reason that we joined the Universalisation team to coordinate the universalisation efforts of the African Region.

I wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, in our efforts to contribute to the universalisation of the convention, we intend to hold a 3 day Seminar in Accra, Ghana from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2012. The Seminar is specifically for Sub-Saharan Africa and in this regard we are considering inviting 47 African countries. The Seminar will be made possible by the generous support of Norway and we thank them most sincerely. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank Ghana for accepting to host the Seminar.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to state our preparedness to work with other State Parties to the Convention in ensuring that all countries accede to the Convention.

I thank you.