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Republic of Zambia

**INTERVENTION STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA ON THE GENERAL STATUS OF
THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS MADE AT THE
INTERSESSIONAL MEETING HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 15th to
19th APRIL, 2013.**

**Zambia Anti-Personnel Mine Action Centre,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
LUSAKA.**

Mr. President,

Thank you for according me this opportunity to make an intervention on the general status of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

At the outset, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate Norway for successfully hosting the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) in Oslo from 11th to 14th September, 2012. We commend you for the manner in which you have steered the Convention since you took over the Presidency and look forward to learning from you during our Presidency which starts in September, 2013.

Allow me also to express my delegation's satisfaction with the report of the coordinators for general status and operations of the Convention. The work of the committee is very important to all of us because it provides States Parties with an opportunity to evaluate our performance in as far as meeting the obligation of the Convention are concerned.

Mr. President,

Zambia is encouraged by the efforts of all States Parties to ensure that the Convention and its provisions are implemented in accordance with the Vientiane and Accra Action Plans. We are also encouraged by the efforts that States Parties are making to

popularise the Convention. To this end we would like to welcome and congratulate all those countries which have joined or ratified the convention since the Third Meeting of States Parties namely Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Chad, Liechtenstein and Nauru.

On our part, am happy to inform the distinguished delegates that Zambia is in the process of domesticating the Convention and hopes to complete the process by the time of the 4MSP. We call on other States that have not domesticated the Convention to consider doing so.

Mr. President,

A number of things related to the implementation of the Convention, however, remain unattended to. Zambia is concerned that some States are not submitting their transparency reports on time and sometimes not accurately. I wish to call upon the secretariat to continue to provide the necessary guidance. It is only through timely and correct reporting that we can achieve the objectives of the Convention.

Mr. President,

Universalisation of the Convention remains critical. A lot has been achieved since the Convention came into force nearly three years ago. Zambia, however, is concerned that the pace of achieving universalisation is rather slow and would therefore like to

see new ideas brought on board by States Parties on how the pace can be accelerated.

It is my country's desire to see many more countries become States Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in order to amplify the voice in denouncing the production, stockpiling and use of these destructive weapons, which is against Article 3 of the Convention.

It is in this regard that Zambia pledges to continue pursuing the universalization agenda by working with other States Parties to convince those countries, which have not joined the Convention to do so for the benefit of humanity the world over. It is, therefore, our hope that the hosting of the 4MSP on African soil, and in Zambia in particular, will generate more support by way of more countries from the continent achieving the status of full universalization.

We also note that a number of States Parties to the Convention have not been able to meet their obligations on Victim Assistance in line with Article 5 of the Convention . Some because of lack of finances while others lack the capacity while others do not have the necessary information about the location of the victims. This has made it difficult for them to assist the victims. Zambia, therefore, calls on the international community to step up their support and cooperation with these countries in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

In conclusion, **Mr. President**, I would like to reaffirm Zambia's continued commitment to the Convention. We are still in this together. Let us continue in our efforts to ensure that the world is rid of these indiscriminate weapons.

I thank you for your attention.