

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING, 7-9 APRIL 2012

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Closing Statement presented by Hon. Gabriel Namulambe, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates;

It is my honour to have been part of the deliberations during the Intersessional meeting especially the thematic subjects of the convention including a number of issues presented in Non Papers on various issues such as the establishment of the ISU, recruitment of its Director and staff, its funding modal as well as the preparations for the first review conference. The participation of delegates representing states and international organisations is a clear testimony of the importance States Parties, Signatory States and Friends of the Convention attach to the Convention.

301 delegates participated in the intersessional meeting representing 54 States Parties, 12 signatories and 16 observer States.

The deliberations have been successful following constructive comments that have been made with regard to all non papers that were prepared by the Coordinators. The Presidency will

ensure they are all considered and taken on board as we prepare for the 5MSP

Excellencies, distinguished delegates;

The information we have received so far is important and a sign that the convention is on course and therefore, there is need for us to remain committed so that we achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention. As I had indicated in my opening remarks the information we have received will form the basis on which the San Jose report will be prepared which will be submitted by Zambia as President of the 4MSP. All thematic Coordinators will be invited to provide additional information based on their own consultations and analysis. A draft version will be made available to all States and other stakeholders for review and factual corrections before going to print.

At this juncture, I wish to reiterate the statements made by some of you on challenges of accession or ratification. Indeed, there is a lot of good will for support out there that could be taken advantage of to ensure that the process of accession and ratification is simple and with very little administrative and bureaucratic challenges. I can assure you that you can count on us as well as the interim ISU, the ICRC and CMC who are more than willing to help and I urge those States that are in the

process of accession and ratification to make use of these partners.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates;

It is gratifying to learn that since the 4MSP, we have witnessed the compliance by States such as Norway who have complied with Article 4, FYR Macedonia, the UK and Denmark with Article 3 and also Ecuador who announced the introduction of a new national legislation which will give effect to the CCM. I am equally happy that South Africa and Madagascar informed us that the process of ratification has reached an advanced stage. We expect more ratifications before the 5MSP given the various consultations held since September, 2013.

Let me conclude by congratulating all States Parties, signatory States, Civil Society organisations and friends of the Convention for their valuable contributions during the Intersessional Meeting. It is my sincere hope that what we discussed and agreed to during the Intersessional meeting will be realised by the time we convene at the 5MSP in San Jose, in September. I wish to also urge all the States Parties with obligations under this Convention to expedite their processes in order to reach a cluster munitions free world.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Interim ISU for making this intersessional Meeting a success. Our gratitude also goes to the GICHD for providing logistical support, staff at WMO and the interpreters for their services.

Finally, I would like to thank Costa Rica for their presentation yesterday and for all the work already undertaken to prepare for the 5MSP. We sincerely look forward to this event both for the substantial aspects as well as for the great opportunity to discover your country.

With these remarks, I now declare the meeting closed.