



Republic of Zambia

**STATEMENT ON CLEARANCE AND RISK REDUCTION AT THE FIRST  
INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER  
MUNITIONS (CCM) held from 27 – 30 JUNE 2011**

I begin by joining previous speakers in commending the Lao PDR Presidency, the incoming Lebanese presidency and all the Friends of the President for their tireless efforts in ensuring that this meeting is a resounding success. I can assure you of my delegation's full support in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues

Zambia was honored to be amongst the first 10 States to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo in 2008. In showing its Political Will and commitment to the Convention, Zambia was the 15<sup>th</sup> State to ratify the Convention on 12 August 2009. Since then the country has continued to undertake the necessary steps to meet its obligations under the Convention.

Mr. Chairman, at the time that Zambia joined the rest of like-minded countries in condemning the indiscriminate nature of the cluster munitions, we were not aware that the country had any contamination by these weapons. However, during the course of a nationwide landmine survey that was conducted in order to meet the Article 5 requirements of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, two areas were found to have been contaminated by cluster munitions. There is no clear data when the contamination occurred but is believed to have been between the 1970s and early 1990s.

Therefore, in the matter of complying with Article 4 of the CCM which requires all States Parties to clear all contaminated areas no later than 10 years after entry into force for a State Party - Zambia was fortunate to have been able to take advantage of synergies between the APMBC and CCM processes by undertaking clearance of cluster munitions affected areas as part of its implementation of Article 5 of the APMBC. During the 2008 to 2009 survey undertaken by a combined team of Zambia Mine Action Centre and Norwegian Peoples' Aid officers, two areas in the Western and North- Western Provinces were found to be contaminated with CB-470 Alpha sub-munitions. 18 submunitions were found in Majwa Village in Shangombo District of the Western Province while the other 4 were found in Shilenda, in Solwezi District of the North – Western Province. A total area of 484,800m<sup>2</sup> was cleared and enabled Zambia to be declared Article 4 compliant before its deadline of 2020. Both areas were cleared in the course of a general ERW clearance operation which ended in June 2010. As such the removal exercise of the cluster munitions contaminated areas was cost effective. This clearance was in addition to 15 other suspected hazardous areas containing sporadic unexploded ordnance and/or abandoned explosive ordnance.

Mr. Chairman, Risk Reduction Education activities are included in the Zambia Mine Action Centre's annual programme and undertaken simultaneously with mine risk education nationwide particularly in areas likely to be at high risk such as international border communities. Risk Reduction Education continues to be undertaken as part of the overall mine risk education exercise as well as during any destruction of explosive remnants of war (ERW) operations. In this regard, over 250 children, women and men have received Risk Reduction Education already this year.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to state that it remains ready to share its experiences with other States on how to efficiently and effectively meet this Convention's obligations and noble objectives.

I thank you.