

Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions: Geneva Switzerland; 2-4 September 2019

Intervention by the Zimbabwe delegation

Universalisation

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of this meeting. Let me also assure you of my delegation's full support.

The ushering in of a new dispensation in Zimbabwe led to the adoption of new priorities that include engagement and re-engagement with the international community. H.E. President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa continues to underscore Government's determination to re-engage the international community through, inter alia, ensuring that Zimbabwe signs, ratifies or accedes to various international treaties and or conventions.

As an integral part of its Defence Policy, Zimbabwe aspires to contribute to international peace and stability by, among other things, adhering to international law on armed conflict and becoming party to international Treaties on de-militarisation.

Zimbabwe is committed to the international and regional goals of arms control and disarmament as evidenced by the country's active participation in disarmament initiatives being spearheaded by the African Union (AU) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The country will continue to support international and regional efforts to contain and prevent the proliferation of small arms, mines conventional armaments and weapons of mass destruction.

In that regard, Zimbabwe has signed, ratified and is party to a number of disarmament and non proliferation conventions such as the Chemical Weapons Convention (1997) the Anti Personnel Mines Treaty (1998) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (2019). Internal processes are underway for the possible ratification of the Biological Weapons Convention, the Arms Trade Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Zimbabwe's non-ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, among others, is largely attributed to logistical and technical capacity mainly due to political, economic and social challenges. Public consultations are being undertaken on the ratification of the Convention.

The new administration is currently aligning its legislation with the new Constitution. The country is also undertaking legislative reforms for the benefit of its citizens and to conform with current international norms.

In view of the foregoing, Zimbabwe stands ready to cooperate with partners on the way forward vis-a-vis signing and/or ratification of outstanding Conventions and Treaties and undertaking legislative reforms.