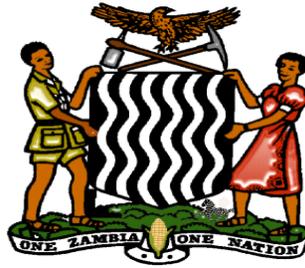


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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**UPDATE BY ZAMBIA ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES,
ANNUAL REPORTING, ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION**

LOME REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNIVERSALISATION

LOME, TOGO

22 – 23 MAY, 2013

Thank you Chair for giving me this opportunity to speak on national implementation measures and where Zambia is at with regard to domestication of the Convention.

From the outset, allow me to state that States Parties are obliged to develop and adopt national implementation measures as required by the Convention. This is important because it is only by adopting domestic legislation that our obligations under the convention can be effected. We continue to be guided by the Accra Action Plan where States Parties agreed to work towards adopting and promulgating a comprehensive national legislation, administrative and other implementing measures, among others.

It is true that progress on implementing the provisions of article 9 has been very slow. We are, however, encouraged by the fact that a number of States are at varying stages of putting in place national implementation measures. We wish to urge those who are procrastinating to make haste to start the process of domesticating the convention.

While giving cognizance to the many different legal and administrative systems that exist in different countries on our continent, it is important for us to exchange information on chosen

ways of implementing article 9 of the convention. These exchanges of information will help new members or those having problems to learn from the best practices of others.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

You may wish to note that Zambia is in the process of domesticating the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We have reached an advanced stage in this regard with a Cabinet Memorandum already in Cabinet and expected to go to Parliament anytime from now. I wish to assure this meeting that the government is working extremely hard to ensure that the Convention is domesticated by the time of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties in Lusaka in September, 2013.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

I would like to reiterate Zambia's commitment to the Convention. Our desire to see a cluster munitions free world still remains strong and pledge to work with other States Parties to, not only ensure that Africa is the first to achieve full universalisation of the Convention, but ensure that the Convention is domesticated to our national laws and implemented accordingly.

I thank you for your attention.