

Republic of Zambia

Statement on Zambia's progress on the implementation of The Convention on Cluster Munitions Convention at the $11^{\rm th}$ Meeting of States Parties.

Geneva, Switzerland 11th to 14st September, 2023

The President of the 11th Meeting of States Parties, Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

The Zambian delegation is honoured for the opportunity to update this meeting on the progress Zambia has made in the implementation of the Convention. We commend you, Mr. President and your team for ably organizing and facilitating the 11th Meeting of State Parties. Allow me to now highlight Zambia's national status on the implementation of the Convention.

- 1. The Government of the Republic of Zambia signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 3rd December, 2008 and ratified it on 12th August 2009, being amongst the first Countries and leading to the Convention's entry into force on 1st August, 2010.
- 2. Mr. President, despite never using, producing, transferring and stockpiling cluster munitions, Zambia from the onset has played an active leadership role in various portfolios in the Convention and also hosted the Fourth Meeting of States Parties in Lusaka in September 2013, as well as serving as the Convention's president until September 2014.

- 3. Zambia commenced the process of domesticating the Convention. In this regard, a draft Bill has been drafted and is yet to be submitted to Cabinet for approval. Further, consultations with the relevant stakeholders to review legislation that will be affected by the Bill have been initiated. Zambia remains resolved to expedite the domestication of the Convention and to this effect, we will continue engaging and updating the ISU on the progress made on this matter.
- 4. Zambia remains committed to the principals of the Convention and has always abided to its provisions. As our legal process towards domestication progresses, the Government has already put in place structural capacities to manage the Convention, through the Zambia Mine Action Centre (ZMAC) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and other enforcement agencies.
- 5. ZMAC deals with sporadic residual contamination of other ordnance under the Mine Ban Treaty and continues to support affected victims by extending Victim Assistance, Mine Clearance and Risk Education.

I thank you.