



Republic of Zambia

Thank you Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Zambia we are delighted to attend this First intersessional meeting of the Mine Ban Convention after the Third Review Conference of 2014 held in Maputo. Once again we wish to appreciate the leadership which was exhibited by the government of Mozambique during the Third Review Conference.

Mr. President

Zambia wishes to commend both your leadership and your team regarding the preparations towards this meeting. We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for their engagement in supporting the work of committees and States Parties.

On the subject of Universalisation we thank you for the outreach efforts and in this regard wish to welcome the government of Oman for joining the Convention

Mr. President

From the onset allow me to sincerely thank all the committees that have presented reports regarding their work on the different

obligations of the Convention pursuant to the Maputo Action Plan. Based on the information contained in the reports we have been able to learn and appreciate the efforts being made by States parties in order to meet the Convention objectives, work which must continue to be supported and actively encouraged.

Mr. President

On the subject of Enhanced Cooperation and Assistance, Zambia joins other delegations in support of this noble cause considering that it is critical to the implementation of the Convention. Matters of Cooperation and Assistance form the basis on which the Convention largely anchors today, without which we would not have achieved the successes recorded this far. As we all know Cooperation and Assistance creates an environment that encourages and promotes partnerships between States Parties with needs and those in a position to assist. Zambia supports the forging of even stronger partnership with other collaborators in order to ensure that the Convention records even more successes.

Based on the observations made in the report, we wish to encourage the strengthening of the use of the existing Partnerships Platform, information exchange tool, be it technical, material, financial or best practices in order to implement the Convention's objectives. For example States Parties that have not ratified due to administrative hurdles and those who have met deadlines of their obligations especially under Article 5, can learn from those that have already done so by engaging themselves through various forms of meetings.

In this regard, the Zambian delegation agrees with the preliminary observations the Committee, particularly paragraph 2 b of the report as submitted.

I thank you