



Republic of Zambia

Statement at 2016 Intersessional Meeting of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention, Geneva 19-20 May, 2016

Thank you Chairperson for giving me the floor

Since Zambia is speaking for the first time in this meeting, I wish to take this opportunity to commend you for your leadership and congratulate Mr. Ruan Juan Carlos for his new appointment to position of Director of the Implementation Support Unit to the Convention.

I also wish to commend the entire Implementation Support Unity Staff for unwavering support rendered to States Parties and in particular to the work of the Committees in implementing the Convention. As a member of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, I must mention that our work has been made easy due to the support of the Implementation Support Unit, as well as the cooperation that we received from the States Parties with Article 5 obligation.

Chairperson

At this moment allow me to mention that the success of the Convention in its implementation lies in the willingness by States Parties to be bound by its provisions. It is in this regard that Zambia wishes to encourage States to follow the Conventions provisions to the latter, as this answers the need for compliance considering that at the Third Review Conference in Maputo as States Parties we committed ourselves to among other things intensify our efforts to clear Mined areas in line with the one of the core aims of the purpose of the conventions.

Thus based on this value and being determined to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti –personnel mines, Article 5 is a provision necessary for states to request for an extension should the circumstances fail them. It is in this regard that while Zambia appreciates the difficult circumstances Ukraine is facing would wish to advise

that Ukraine considers submitting a request for extension in line with the provisions of the Convention.

Zambia attaches great importance to the **humanitarian** cause of the Convention because of the inherent nature of improving people's lives. It is in this regard that we have remained actively engaged in the implementation of its activities and would be happy seeing willingness by States Parties to voluntarily accept its obligations.

I thank you Chairperson