

STATEMENT BY THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION HELD FROM 3RD – 7TH FEBRUARY 2003 GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

Thank you Mr Chairman,

I would like to report to this committee on behalf of the Zambian Delegation that Zambia is seriously working towards eliminating the scourge of landmines and unexploded ordinances on its soils. It has therefore set for its self a time frame.

- It plans to complete demining activities by the year 2007.

To facilitate the fulfilment of this plan, the Zambia Mine Action Centre has embarked on a National Impact Survey programme. It has so far carried out surveys in some selected parts of the country. However, our efforts are being hampered by lack of adequately trained Impact Survey Personnel.

Some assistance in capacity building to carry out the National Impact Survey would greatly expedite the realisation of our goal.

While carrying out the National Impact Survey, the Zambia Mine Action Centre has responded to urgent requests for assistance in demining areas where development projects were delayed by the suspected presence of landmines.

Though still in its infancy, the Zambia Mine Action Centre will in a few weeks time hand over the demined areas to the affected communities in the project area. This is the area where a very

important World Bank funded project was stalled by the presence of landmines.

At this hand over ceremony, some of our mine stocks that were kept for training purposes under Article 3 will be destroyed. Details of this destruction will be reflected in Article 7 reporting.

In conclusion my delegation would like to reiterate the country's request for assistance in capacity building in carrying out Impact Survey to effectively and conclusively execute the demining programme.

Thank you.