

Intervention by H.E. Ambassador Bonaventure Bowa, Permanent Representative Head of Zambian Delegation at the meeting of the standing committees on the mine ban treaty.  
29.01.2002 Standing Committee on Mine Clearance...

Thank you Mr Co-Chairman,

I wish to take the opportunity to State Zambia's Commitment to the full implementation of the mine ban treaty. Since Zambia's ratification of this treaty, she has taken practical steps to implement it. The country is now finalizing the incorporation of the Convention into Zambian legislation. Even before this legislation process is completed, Zambia is already establishing a Mine Action Centre which will coordinate all Mine Action programmes in the country.

As part of the process of establishing the Zambia Mine Centre, the government of the United States of America is providing assistance to train personnel which will man the Centre. So far the management team for the centre as well as survey, mine awareness, quality assurance and information systems teams have been trained. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome with gratitude the offer by Government of France to train a few more of our personnel.

The training of personnel is not an end in itself. WE need to effectively implement the Convention. We will need the support of those genuinely concerned with the eradication of the problem of Anti-Personnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnance.

Zambia urgently needs simple demining equipment such as detectors, protective materials, communication equipment and vehicles.

As you are all aware, an impact survey is the first step for an effective Mine Action Programme. Zambia would need support in carrying out a national impact survey. It is the plan of Zambia that the impact survey starts as soon as possible and should be followed by the clearance programme beginning hopefully April this year.

I thank you.