

**ZAMBIAN STATEMENT TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINE  
CLEARANCE, MINE RISK EDUCATION AND MINE ACTION  
TECHNOLOGIES ON 5TH JUNE 2008**

Zambia's mine clearance plan remains the same pending the completion of the proposed survey. In this regard, some progress has been made towards the undertaking of the long overdue nationwide survey. The UNDP in collaboration with the Zambia mine action centre advertised for competent companies to bid for a tender to conduct a landmine survey which would be guided by the international mine action standards (IMAS). The survey is expected to cover seven out of nine provinces which are suspected to be contaminated to various degrees by mines and explosive remnants of war. The survey, which should be underway by the end of next month, is expected to provide standardized and technical data on the location, nature and impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war on communities in the country. The survey results will be the basis of the formulation of a definitive national demining programme.

In the meantime, explosive ordinance disposal and small scale demining activities have continued to be undertaken with the limited available government funding. In addition, this year both ministerial and commercial entities have provided funds for mine and ERW identification and clearance work in their respective areas of field operations.

Mine risk education continues to play a significant role in the prevention of mine related accidents. In our last update to the standing committee meeting, Zambia mentioned its intention to mainstream mine risk education into the public school curriculum. Since then, in collaboration with the ministry of education's, curriculum development centre, the Zambia mine action centre concluded the first draft of the teacher's handbook at the end of last year as a first step towards mainstreaming mine action into the school curriculum in the affected areas. Planning and execution of the second phase of this pilot project which will involve the finalization of the draft, its editing by the ministry of education, translation into local languages, printing and then orientation of

teachers on the use of the handbook is currently underway. It is envisioned that with sufficient funding the handbook will be ready for launch early next year. This exercise has been made possible with funds made available by the Canadian government through UNICEF. We wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Canada for this support. It is also anticipated that at a later stage, with additional funding, a learner's handbook will be designed for use by the pupils to guide their learning as a supplement to the teacher's handbook.

Furthermore, during the last 12 months, mine risk education exercises have been conducted targeting both local communities as well as repatriating refugees. A total of 7,553 Congolese adult refugees, 4,200 children and over 600 refugees of other nationalities were sensitized during the exercises. Two key communicators/interpreters in each of the four refugee camps targeted were also trained to continue with the mine risk education programs beyond repatriation operations. The exercise was funded by the UNHCR through the office of the Zambian commissioner for refugees.

Again with Canadian funds made available through UNICEF, the centre also conducted mine risk education in some mine affected local communities in the seven suspected contaminated provinces during a pilot study to collect data on landmine and ERW victims. A total of 122 communities were educated through these exercises comprising 2,248 men, 2,797 women, 10,959 boys and 7,932 girls. No incidents of mine related accidents have been reported in the last 12 months.

The Zambian government remains determined to meet its article 5 obligations within the stipulated timeframe. This resolve is emphasised through steady budgetary provision of not less than us\$100,000 towards mine action operations in the last 2 years. This year's allocation amounts to approximately us\$ 170,000.

I thank you co-chairs.