



**STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE AT THE STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 25TH JUNE 2010**

Thank you for the floor, Madam President

I wish to begin by thanking you for having set aside some time for States Parties to discuss a matter that my country believes is critical to the continued success of the Mine Ban Convention.

Madam President, as a State that has been affected by anti-personnel mines and had obligations to meet, the issue of international cooperation and assistance is one that Zambia feels very strongly about. We experienced first hand the difficulties many other States still have to contend with to comply with their obligations. You may recall that for a number of years Zambia appealed for cooperation and assistance from those in a position to assist but did not receive it for a long time. This was in spite of having met the so called donor criteria for receiving assistance, such as, national ownership.

As a country that never had any conflict, it was difficult to get visibility amongst States with a larger problem and that were also the preferred recipients of donor funding. Zambia was just not a priority for donors. To compound the problem we were not clear on what resources were available to us or how to access them. Fortunately, being included on the UNDP Completion Initiative gave Zambia much needed visibility. We wish to thank UNDP, Canada, Sweden, Norway and Norwegian Peoples Aid for the timely assistance received to enable us achieve Article 5 compliance well ahead of our 2011 deadline.

Given the aforesaid, Zambia last September made a proposal for the creation of a Standing Committee on Resources to mitigate the needs of affected States in particular. We envisage that the focus of such a Standing Committee would be as a forum where both affected States and States in a position to assist would brainstorm on resource mobilization and utilization strategies. It would also be an opportunity to exchange information on cooperation given and received. While there are similar processes in existence, Zambia found that it could not fully benefit from them as our delegation tended to be small. As such it is very difficult to have presence at these briefings that are usually side events held simultaneously. We believe that States with small delegations would benefit from a special committee held in plenary so that all stakeholders get the same information at the same time.

We wish to make it clear that we do not intend this Standing committee to be a forum for States to submit requests for assistance but to exchange information on how best to mobilize existing or new resources.

In this regard, Zambia wishes to formally request that the issue of the creation of a Standing Committee on Resources be added to the agenda of the forthcoming Meeting of States Parties for further discussion and decision.

I thank you