



**ZAMBIAN STATEMENT TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL STATUS  
AND OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION  
ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

Thank you for the floor, Co-Chair.

**In response to the** questionnaire to Zambia requesting an update on anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes under the Convention. I wish to inform the meeting that in the spirit of Action # 54 of the Nairobi Action Plan, Zambia has already submitted its 2008 Form D of the Article 7 Report in which it was indicated that of the original 3,346 retained mines; only 2,120 are still being held for training in mine detection, clearance and destruction techniques.

These numbers have not changed since 2007 as no practical field training has been conducted due to budgetary constraints. Theoretical training has however, continued to be conducted in which trainees are exposed to the different types retained for identification purposes only. This is particularly useful for personnel being prepared for deployment on peacekeeping missions in countries where mines were extensively used.

**Co-Chairs,** the exit level outcomes for the conducted training in mine field laying, marking and demining training have been positive. The Army demining trainees continue to be a competent national resource in mine detection, clearance and destruction of mines. Zambia's Defence Force personnel on assignments to various peacekeeping operations (PKOs) undergo intensive mine detection training during pre-deployment training and these have proven to be reliable in dealing with mines and other ordnance in the mission areas.

A major benefit to Zambia on the usage of retained mines for training has been the cost effectiveness of ridding the country of mines and UXO as the national capacity has professionally conducted mine clearance in suspected areas across the country at a much reduced cost. Zambia is also proud of its 100% safety record thus far.

As mentioned on several occasions in the past, Zambia does not, and has never, manufactured mines, but strives to keep abreast with modern technological advancement in detection, clearance and destruction methods by continuously engaging in learning exchanges with other State Parties. The Zambia Mine Action Centre (ZMAC) whom the Defence Forces closely collaborate with, has been instrumental in co-ordinating the demining activities, including ensuring that provisions of the convention are observed and implemented in line with its obligatory mandate.

Co-Chairs, the transfer of anti-personnel mines is prohibited under Zambian Act no 16 of 2003 in accordance with the Convention. This therefore excludes Zambia and its citizens from acts of transferring mines to other State Parties, Furthermore, it has not received any APMs from other State Parties or States not Party since ratification of the Mine Ban Convention. Our commitment currently is focussed on further transfer for destruction and eventual eradication of all stockpiled APMs.

In conclusion, Co - Chairs, Zambia remains fully and actively committed to ensuring that the remaining retained stockpile will continue to be used as provided for in Article 3. This year we intend to further reduce our stock during the planned training programmes.

I thank you Co-Chairs.