



## **REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**ELEVENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE AP MINE BAN TREATY**

**PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 28 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 2011**

**STATEMENT ON CLEARANCE BY ZAMBIA**

**Thank you Mr. President,**

**Zambia joins delegations that have spoken before us in congratulating you on your election to the Presidency of this important meeting and we also thank the Government and people of Cambodia for the warm hospitality accorded to us. We feel privileged to be part of this auspicious occasion which brings back the convention where it all started. Indeed, the coming back home of the convention provides a good opportunity for the international community to recall how far the world has come in pursuing a comprehensive end to suffering and casualties caused by antipersonnel mines.**

**Zambia salutes the Government and People of Cambodia on the strides they have made in clearing mined areas, destroying stockpiles and assisting victims of anti-personnel mines. My delegation is encouraged by the determination with which Cambodia continues to push for progress towards being mine-free.**

**We are proud of this convention and welcome the new members, Tuvalu and South Sudan.**

**Mr. President,**

**We thank all the countries that have provided updates and acknowledge that the implementing of article 5 on the clearance of mined areas is one of the biggest challenges to States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty and this applies to both affected States as well as those in a position to provide assistance. During the June intercessional meetings, Switzerland in its capacity as co-chair of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance correctly pointed out that the credibility of the Convention, to a great extent, depended on the fulfilment and completion of the article 5 obligations within the given time frames. However, we note that significant challenges remain in implementing the**

**obligation upon all affected States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty to clear all antipersonnel mines from their territory or on areas they control. In this regard, the Zambian delegation calls on concerned States Parties to find ways work towards rapid implementation of article 5 and those countries requesting for extensions to work in accordance with commitments made in their extension requests and decisions taken on their requests in line with Point 13 of the Cartagena Action Plan. We are fully aware that meeting deadlines requires resources and we commend all those countries that continue to provide financial, technical and other resources. We urge all States Parties to find ways to bring the efforts of the committee on co-operation and assistance to the fore, while taking the necessary care to ensure that available scarce resources are utilised effectively and efficiently.**

**The south to south co-operation is a welcome initiative which could go a long way in mitigating challenges. The already existing Joint cross-border initiatives such as the JICA-supported South-South Cooperation between Cambodia and Laos is one shining example that States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty would do well to replicate. Uganda's offer to assist South Sudan, if requested, is most encouraging.**

**Mr President,**

**Zambia commends Germany for their transparency in informing and updating States Parties about an area under their jurisdiction which may probably still contain among other things, cluster munitions and Anti-personnel mines. Zambia also thanks Hungary for their update.**

**We now turn to a matter that has already been alluded to concerning an apparent gap in the implementation of Article 5 of the MBT. There seems to be some ambiguity or lack of clarity in dealing with special circumstances such as those who discover mined areas after their Article 5 deadline has expired. As Co-Rapporteur on mine clearance, Zambia is of the view that the possibility of exploring special procedures for such cases be discussed. The issue could be included on the agenda for consideration at the 2012 Standing Committee on Mine Clearance for in-depth discussion, with a view to adopting the decision on the new procedure at the 12MSP.**

**I thank you Mr. President.**