

**ZAMBIA'S STATEMENT ON VICTIMS ASSISTANCE DURING THE  
12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL  
MINE BAN CONVENTION.**

Thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor,

Zambia is fully committed to the process of providing assistance to land mine victims that includes emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support and social and economic inclusion in order to ensure their full and effective participation in the various activities of the communities.

It is this regard that Zambia wishes to report that in August this year the Government of the Republic of Zambia, through the Zambia Mine Action Centre (ZMAC), facilitated the prosthesis treatment, which included the provision of new artificial legs and special shoes, to four land mine victims from the remotest areas of North Western province bordering Angola. The victims had for many years suffered pain and anguish with no help from anywhere because they had not been by Government.

Mr. President,

Zambia is keen to continue assisting victims of landmines who are scattered countrywide but this effort is limited and hampered by the lack of a proper database. Although Zambia last undertook a

countrywide survey in 2007, the precise number of land mine victims and their needs are not known due to demographic changes that have taken place in the last few years. In addition, the outcome of the survey was impaired by methodology used whose results could have been understated or inflated. For this reason, Zambia intends to undertake a new nationwide socio-economic survey to identify victims or survivors of land mines, their needs, requirements and locations to ensure an age and gender sensitive, rights based and holistic approach to the exercise.

The proposed survey apart from profiling victims, will also assist Zambia to develop a programme that will help in disseminating information and ensuring that victims are assisted with rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration into their communities. In addition, the survey will help Zambia attain institutional capacity to effectively implement the victim assistance program and promote the development of services, infrastructure and policies to address the rights and needs of all victims of landmines.

The proposed survey will further help ZMAC to undertake mine risk education in the affected areas in order to reduce the risk of injury from mines or unexploded ordnances by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change.

Mr. President,

Much as Zambia is striving to fulfill its obligations under the convention in the area of victim assistance, the country still faces challenges with regard to resources and capacity. It is in this regard that Zambia is calling upon those who are in a position to help, to extend their assistance to enable the country fulfill its victim assistance obligations.

I thank you.