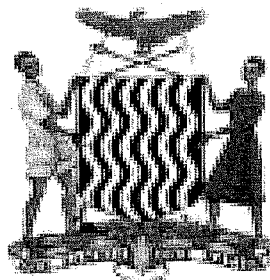


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AM.



**STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA ON THE PROPOSED RATIONAL
RESPONSE TO STATE PARTIES DISCOVERING PREVIOUSLY
UNKNOWN MINED AREAS AFTER DEADLINES HAVE PASSED**

Mr. President,

Allow me first and foremost to commend you, Mr. President, for diligently carrying out the mandate given by the 11MSP to develop a rational response to deal with previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed.

Indeed, it was important that this issue was dealt with because of the complexity of demining exercises. We also have to take into account the fact that most landmines are not placed in a particular pattern but are often littered, making it difficult sometimes to identify all the infested areas at once.

Mr. President,

Zambia supports the proposed rational response as it does not constitute an amendment to the Convention since it is anchored in

the object and purpose of the Convention. The proposal is in line with the mandate that was given to you by the 11MSP. We also believe that the proposal by the co-chairs does not undermine the legal obligations to destroy all anti-personnel land mines in mined areas.

Much as we understand that all State Parties will act in a transparent and committed manner, it is important to emphasize that every State Party still under article 5 obligation of the Convention should have a deadline.

We, therefore, urge all State Parties to fully support the rational response which is a product of extensive and lengthy consultations by the Co-chairs since the 11MSP.

The Zambian delegation is confident that all State Parties will support the proposed rational response which we believe bridges the gap that exists in the framework and the provisions available to the Convention's community to monitor and consider progress by a State Party.

I thank you.