

(This document is the property of the Government of the Republic of Zambia)



Republic of Zambia

**STATEMENT ON GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT THE 14TH MEETING OF
STATES PARTIES HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND FROM 30TH NOVEMBER
TO 4TH DECEMBER 2015**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
LUSAKA

30th November, 2015

Thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, my delegation and indeed, on my own behalf I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr. President for your leadership, and the manner in which you are conducting the deliberations of the 14th Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention. Your team and the Implementation Support Unit should be commended for the good work in preparing for this meeting. You can be assured of our support in discharging your mandate.

I also wish to join other delegations who have spoken before me in commending the Government of Mozambique for the successful completion of the clearance of Landmines in line with Article five (5) of the Convention. My congratulations also go to Finland for fulfilling their obligation of stock pile destruction. This speaks to States Parties' willingness to maintain the momentum generated at the Third Review Conference in renewing their political commitments.

Mr. President.

It is gratifying to note that since the Third Review Conference; in line with the Maputo Action Plan States have continued working towards ending the suffering caused by Anti-Personnel Landmines. The 14th meeting of States Parties therefore, provides again an opportunity for the international community to share the achievements underscored during the recent past. It also gives us an opportunity to re-focus our energies in dealing with the challenges.

Mr. President

As one of the States Parties that has supported the works of the Convention, Zambia remains steadfast to support the efforts aimed at achieving the goals of the Convention. We commend Countries that have been able to meet their obligations of the Conventions and we also want to encourage countries that are yet to meet their obligations under the convention to continue with their efforts to meet the deadlines. In as far as universalization is concerned the achievements we have scored, will be more meaningful if the stigmatization of any use of Anti-personnel mines and other related indiscriminate weapons is strengthened through further efforts in bringing on board those states not part to

the convention. We thus congratulate Oman and call on those states not party to do so.

Mr. President

In fulfilling our obligations in the area of victim assistance, we have continued our efforts to enhance and improve the lives of victims. We have continued to attend to problems of Residual Contamination of ERWs and also Mine Risk education is ongoing.

Mr. President

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Peoples Republic of China for training Zambians in International Demining in Mine Clearance which was held in China recently. We, therefore, wish to encourage all stake holders under the Ottawa Convention of this type of cooperative initiatives and partnership in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

Mr. President

Finally, I wish to reaffirm Zambia s commitment to the Convention and appeal to all countries to continue to support the Convention. We all have a shared responsibility and concern to ensure that the safety of civilians is a priority.

I thank you, Mr. President