



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

INTERVENTION MADE BY THE ZAMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES (15MSP) TO THE OTTAWA CONVENTION HELD FROM 28TH NOVEMBER TO 1ST DECEMBER, 2016, SANTIAGO, CHILE

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 thank the Chilean Government for its hospitality and for keeping us busy and well informed on the matters pertaining to the use and clearance of Land mines fields in this region and especially here in Chile after yesterday's trip to Arica which was worth taking.

Mr. President,

Allow me also to commend you for your leadership, prior and during this Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention and the tireless efforts of your Government and you in person for having done everything possible to hold this meeting. Your team and the Implementation Support Unit should also be commended for the good work and support. You can be rest assured of my delegation's support in discharging your mandate.

All that being said, **Mr. President**, I must mention that although there has been no states joining the Convention during the past period, the rejection of the use of land mines has remained our shared norm. The progress made in its implementation is evident enough to take us forward to the goal of achieving a mine free world by 2025. Than ever before, we need to come together and condemn in every strongest possible terms any alleged use of Land mines by both States who are not Part to the Convention and non-state actors.

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes your efforts undertaken in support of the universalization of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). With 162 on board we need the remaining 35 States who are still outside the Convention to ensure its universality and compliance in all aspects which is critical. In this modern era Anti-personnel landmines have and should have no place anywhere in the world. It is in this respect that we encourage all

stakeholders to redouble their efforts to ensure maintaining this norm and bringing more states to joining the convention. As to those states who have not yet joined this important convention we call on them to do so without delay.

Mr. President, the international community cannot stand aloof in the process of peace building initiatives and see an increase in a number of victims due to continued use of land mines in armed conflicts. It is evident that the use of such indiscriminate weapons cause untold misery to humanity and can only be minimised through respect for the convention. In the spirit of the Ottawa Convention, the international community is but the force capable of raising its voice and once again condemn perpetrators of use of such weapons in these conflicts.

Mr. President,

In fulfilling our obligations to the Convention in the area of universalisation my delegation will remain committed to work together with others in pushing the agenda of a mine free world. In the area of victim assistance, we have continued our efforts to enhance and improve the lives of victims. We have also continued to attend to problems of Residual Contamination of ERWs and also Mine Risk education is ongoing.

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 objective of the convention is a priority for all humanity.

I thank you,