

STATEMENT BY THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION TO THE 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATES PARTIES HELD FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008 GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

YOUR EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATES PARTIES,  
VICE PRESIDENTS, THE SECRETARY – GENERAL,  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

*Mr President,*  
I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, JUST LIKE THE MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE TAKEN THE FLOOR BEFORE ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY, ON YOUR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THIS MEETING. ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, I WOULD FURTHER LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL THE VICE-PRESIDENTS ON THEIR ELECTION AND ALSO THE SECRETARY – GENERAL ON HIS CONFIRMATION.

AS ALWAYS, ZAMBIA IS ENCOURAGED WHEN EVEN AFTER SO MANY YEARS THERE ARE STILL STATES ACCEDING AND RATIFYING THIS IMPORTANT CONVENTION. THEREFORE, AS A STATE PARTY ADVOCATING FOR THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION, WE CONTINUE TO URGE STATES THAT HAVE ACCEDDED BUT NOT RATIFIED THE CONVENTION TO TAKE THIS IMPORTANT STEP IN THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. WE PLEDGE TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO ASSIST SUCH STATES IN THEIR EFFORTS.

*Mr President,*  
*BEYOND*  
*TOWARDS*  
AS WE GO BEYOND THE 10 YEAR MARK, WE FIND OURSELVES IN A SITUATION WHERE WE HAVE TO CONSIDER A NUMBER OF EXTENSION REQUESTS ON KEY OBLIGATIONS. PERHAPS MANY OF THESE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE, HAD ASSISTANCE BEEN REQUESTED FOR EARLY ENOUGH OR ASSISTANCE PROVIDED SOONER. THE NUMBER OF EXTENSION REQUESTS SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO

*WE WILL BE CONSIDERING THIS WEEK*

ALL STATES PARTIES THAT THE ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IS KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE TREATY. THAT WE ARE NOT DOING ENOUGH TO ASSIST EACH OTHER SHOULD BE CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

THE CONVENTION STATES THAT A STATE PARTY HAS THE RIGHT TO SEEK AND RECEIVE ASSISTANCE. THE SAME CONVENTION FURTHER SAYS THAT EACH STATE PARTY IN A POSITION TO DO SO IS OBLIGED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.

~~THOUGH~~ WHILE ADMITTEDLY A LOT OF FUNDS HAVE BEEN RAISED FOR MINE ACTION IN THE PAST 10 YEARS, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A TENDENCY FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THESE FUNDS TO BE SKEWED TOWARDS CERTAIN STATES THAT FIT A PREFERRED PROFILE. WHILE, AGREEABLY, THERE MUST BE SOME CRITERION USED IN THE ALLOCATION OF THESE FUNDS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE DO NOT FORGET THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT IS THE SUM TOTAL ACHIEVED THAT COUNTS. IF THE CONVENTION IS CHARACTERIZED BY EXTENSION REQUESTS, THE CONVENTION WILL BE CONSTRUED AS HAVING FAILED. AS STATES PARTIES WE HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT – NOW WE NEED TO ~~KEEP~~ <sup>HONOUR</sup> OUR <sup>AND COLLECTIVE</sup> INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN CONCLUSION, I WOULD LIKE TO END BY URGING US ALL TO DO OUR PART TO ENSURE THAT THIS CONVENTION, WHICH IS THUS FAR A SUCCESS IN PROGRESS, CONTINUES TO BE AN IDEAL MODEL FOR FUTURE HUMANITARIAN TREATIES.

I THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

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