



## Republic of Zambia

**ZAMBIA' S STATEMENT DURING THE SIXTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES (6MSP) TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS DURING THE SIXTH MEETING OF STATES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS HELD IN GENEVA FROM 5<sup>TH</sup> TO 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER,2016.**

**Thank you Mr. President,**

Allow me to express our gratitude for your leadership as President of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties (6MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the manner in which you have handled the deliberations of this meeting. Our gratitude also goes to the Implementation Support Unit Staff for its support to you and the coordinators in the discharge of their various mandates and States Parties in as far as this MSP is concerned.

I wish to comment on those sessions in which we did not have the opportunity participate.

On Universalisation, Mr. President I wish to state that Zambia has been actively involved in the affairs of the Convention on Cluster Munitions since its inception. You may wish to note that Zambia was among the first 30 countries to sign the Convention. Since then we have involved ourselves in the universalisation drive because we believe that for the Convention to be fully implemented there has to be a comprehensive global ban on Cluster Munitions, supported by all States in the world.

Zambia's desire has always been, to see that Africa is the first continent to achieve full universalisation of the Convention and because of this; we have actively involved ourselves in regional activities and continued working with other African countries to ensure that the remaining African countries are brought on board the Convention.

Implementation of the Convention can only be effective if the large majority of countries are inside the Convention. For this reason Zambia has endeavoured to use every forum, be it bilateral, regional or international meetings, to engage countries that are outside the convention.

We have co-hosted regional meetings at home and abroad to encourage universalisation. These Regional meetings have discussed issues pertaining to ratification, accession and domestication of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and addressed challenges being faced by States-Not Parties in order to find possible ways to deal with the challenges.

It is thus gratifying to note that the Convention has continued to make remarkable progress since its inception. With each new member that joins the Convention, we are getting nearer to achieving full universalisation. In this regard, States Parties and other stakeholders should be commended for their efforts in ensuring that States-not-Party are encouraged to join the Convention. We therefore wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Cuba, Mauritius, Palau and Somalia for having joined the Convention. We also welcome the announcement by the delegation of Madagascar that the process of ratification is almost done and so we do with Nigeria who we have waited to complete the process since the First Review conference.

Zambia is confident that the more the countries we have the better to serve our world from further use of Cluster Munitions and ensure greater peace and security to civilians especially women, children and the aged.

We, therefore, wish to pledge Zambia's continued support and commitment to the universalisation of the Convention by engaging actively in regional activities aimed at boosting the membership. Through collaborative effort with other stakeholders we also pledge to continue reaching out to even States-Not-Party beyond the African continent.

**Mr. President,**

On National Implementation Measures, in the first place I wish to commend New Zealand for the report and wish to mention that, during the Regional Workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Zambia shared her experiences and challenges in the implementation of the Convention including domesticating the convention. You may wish to note that Zambia has already embarked on a process to domesticate the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In Zambia the process of domestication of the Convention involves, among others, preparation and circulation of a Cabinet Memorandum to line Ministries for their comments; submitting the Cabinet Memorandum to Cabinet at their regular sittings for consideration.

After approval by Cabinet, a layman's draft is prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Justice who in turn drafts the bill which is then presented in Parliament and after the various stages, it is made law. In as much as we have made head way we have however, encountered some challenges

during the process of trying to domesticate the Convention, some of the challenges that have been faced include among others:-

- Bureaucracy associated with government operations;
- Lack of adequate human resources;
- Lack of alternative voice to support the process (need for campaigners to offer support; and
- Lack of adequate Financial resources

It is however, noteworthy that Zambia has remained committed to the ideals of the Convention and will continue to support the work of the Convention both by domesticating it and ensure full universalisation is achieved.

**I thank you**