

**STATEMENT BY THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINE CLEARANCE, MINE RISK
EDUCATION AND MINE ACTION TECHNOLOGIES
HELD ON 25th APRIL 2007**

CO-CHAIRS

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

AS THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES MAY BE AWARE, THE MAJOR HINDRANCE TO ZAMBIA ACHIEVING ANNUAL CLEARANCE TARGETS HAS BEEN THE WELL PUBLISIZED PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDING DUE TO THE SEVERAL COMPETING PRIORITIES THE NATIONAL BUDGET HAS TO ADDRESS. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CONTINUED MINE CONTAMINATION WILL HINDER DEVELOPMENT IN MANY AREAS AND HAS UNDERTAKEN TO FUND AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ALL MINE ACTION ACTIVITES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR.

IN THIS REGARD, THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2007 ALREADY MADE AVAILABLE APPROXIMATELY US\$75,000 TO FACILITATE MINE ACTION ACTIVITES. OF THIS AMOUNT, CLOSE TO US\$35,000 HAS BEEN SPENT ON A NATIONWIDE SURVEY OF MINE SURVIVORS AND THEIR NEEDS.

THE ZAMBIA MINE ACTION CENTRE HAS TREASURY AUTHORITY TO SPEND APPROXIMATELY US\$135,500 FROM THIS YEARS NATIONAL BUDGET. THIS AMOUNT IS SLIGHTLY MORE THAN WAS ALLOCATED IN 2006 AND FURTHER DEMONSTRATES THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TOWARDS MEETING ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION.

HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT MUCH CONSIDERING THE SCOPE OF WORK STILL TO BE UNDERTAKEN BUT IT UNDERSCORES THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE AND COMMITMENT TOWARDS MINE ACTION. SINCE THE LAST STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS VERY LIMITED CLEARANCE WORK HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN WITH MOST CLEARANCE BEING IN THE FORM OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD). MINE RISK EDUCATION HAS INCREASED AMONG THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES BUT MUCH STILL REMAINS TO BE DONE.

I WISH TO RESTATE THAT AT CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS, TREATY OBLIGATIONS WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE GIVEN TIME FRAME WITHOUT DONOR ASSISTANCE. WITH UNDP SUPPORT, A PLAN THAT OUTLINES THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN HAS BEEN DEVELOPED. HOWEVER, A MORE DETAILED NATIONWIDE ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY ALL CONTAMINATED AREAS REMAINS THE PRIORITY ACTIVITY FOR 2007. THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY WOULD FACILITATE

APPROPRIATE PRIORITISATION OF CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN.

ZAMBIA REMAINS OPTIMISTIC THAT WITH ADEQUATE FUNDING IT CAN “ENSURE THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN MINED AREAS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION OR CONTROL” BEFORE ITS DEADLINE OF 2011.

IN CONCLUSION, CO-CHAIRS, I AM HAPPY TO STATE THAT AFTER SEVERAL REPEATED APPEALS FOR DONOR AND INTERNATIONAL NGO ASSISTANCE, ZAMBIA HAS FINALLY RECEIVED SOME OF THE ATTENTION IT HAS BEEN SEEKING AND IF ALL THE PLEDGES COME THROUGH, ZAMBIA WILL BE REPORTING SOME SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN MEETING THE OBLIGATIONS OF ARTICLE 5 AT THE NEXT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS. WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION WHETHER IT BE AT BI-LATERAL, REGIONAL, SOUTH TO SOUTH OR GLOBAL LEVEL.

FURTHERMORE, I WISH TO COMMEND ALL THE ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE RESPONDED TO THE REMINDER WE GAVE AT LAST YEAR'S MEETING WHERE WE QUOTED NAIROBI ACTION PLAN NO. 23 WHICH REQUIRES THAT STATES PARTIES IN A POSITION TO DO SO TO “ACT UPON THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 6 (3) AND 6 (4) TO

PROMPTLY ASSIST STATES PARTIES WITH CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED NEEDS FOR EXTERNAL SUPPORT FOR MINE CLEARANCE AND MINE RISK EDUCATION...” ZAMBIA REMAINS CONFIDENT THAT WITH ADEQUATE AND TIMELY DONOR ASSISTANCE IT WOULD PROVIDE THE MUCH NEEDED SUCCESS STORY OF A STATE PARTY MEETING ITS OBLIGATIONS AHEAD OF THE STIPULATED DEADLINE.

FINALLY, ZAMBIA CONGRATULATES THE KINGDOM OF JORDAN FOR OFFERING TO HOST THE 8TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES AND LOOKS FORWARD TO A FRUITFUL MEETING.

THANK YOU.