

MRS MARIA LAOSE  
DIRECTOR, INT'L ORGANISATION DEPT  
MIN. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
ABUJA

NIGERIA'S STATEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON RESOURCES, COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE AS  
PROPOSED BY ZAMBIA

Mr. President,

The Nigerian delegation wishes to join others in congratulating you on your assumption as President of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of States Parties. And through you, we also would like to commend Norway, for the excellent manner in which activities under the Convention have been managed in the previous year.

2. Nigeria has asked for the floor to associate herself with the Zambian proposal for the establishment of a standing committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance. We have seen the tremendous impacts the 4 existing Standing Committees have on the status and operation of the Convention; the Stockpile destruction; victim assistance and social-economic reintegration; and mine clearance and mine risk education.

3. All international instruments have provisions for international cooperation and assistance. So does the Anti-Personnel Landmines in its Article 6. Activities under this provision include those already being taken care of in those four other standing committees. The new committee being advocated will be useful in addressing other important areas that have so far been left out. Nigeria believes that the proposed Committee can promote international cooperation in the area of increasing awareness and knowledge in international humanitarian law, in assisting states in their national implementation, and enhancing regional co-ordination of activities in promotion of a mine-free world.

4. In short, Mr. Chairman, the proposal will take care of a lot of issues that have so far been left out or have received little attention. Nigeria therefore supports the proposal.

5. I thank you.