



Republic of Zambia

13th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti- Personnel Mine Ban Convention held in Geneva, Switzerland from 2nd to 5th December 2013.

General Exchange of Views

Thank you Mr. President

On behalf of the Zambian Delegation, I wish to join other delegations in congratulating you on your election to chair the proceedings of this last but important Meeting of State Parties just before the Third Review Conference which take place in Maputo in 2014. I can assure you of Zambia's support during your Presidency on this Convention which aims at alleviating the suffering of people caused by the use of landmines. I also wish to extend our congratulations to the other members of the Bureau and wish to thank the past President Ambassador Matjaz Kovacic of Slovenia for his leadership during his tenure and for the excellent works in preparation for the 13MSP.

Mr. President,

Zambia attaches great importance to the Universalisation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention whose success depends on its

full universalisation. We thus welcome Poland for joining the Convention and give further great compliments to the European Union of its commitment, cooperation and willingness of its members in implementing the obligations of the treaty. We therefore, call on States not Party to the Convention to follow this example to join the Convention as a gesture of humanitarian concern. For other regions the EU's stands a model to follow if full Universalisation is to be achieved and further the need to put to an end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. We are also encouraged to note reports of reduced incidents of landmine casualties indicating the success of the Mine ban Convention.

Mr. President

Despite the successes, we also share the humanitarian concern of State Parties to this Convention on the reported use of anti-personnel mines by states including States Parties and if confirmed, we call on those states concerned to be reminded of their obligations under the Convention. Zambia joins other countries in condemning these barbaric acts by those States Parties and call on them to take immediate action that would prevent further casualties.

Mr. President

Zambia remains Committed and is looking forward to the successful deliberations of the meeting including the discussions that would follow to prepare for the Third Review Conference at which the successes and challenges will be derived to chart the way forward in implementing the Convention.

I thank you