



Republic of Zambia

**13th MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON ANTI-
PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION HELD FROM 2ND – 5TH DECEMBER
2013, IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

STATEMENT ON MINE CLEARANCE

Thank you Mr. President,

Zambia joins other delegations in congratulating Venezuela, Bhutan, Hungary and Germany for having successfully completed the mine clearance obligation in fulfillment of Article 5 and we are encouraged to hear progress made by other States Parties in the process of implementing this Article.

Mr. President,

The determination and commitment by States Parties and Signatory States to the Convention on AP Mine Ban that continues to push for progress in making the world safe of these remnants of War is encouraging and should be supported by all.

It is indeed encouraging to see once again, States Parties and other Stakeholders coming together to take stock of how far we have come in managing and tracking comprehensive measures aimed at ending the untold suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines.

Mr. President

You will recall that in November, 2009, in Cartagena, Colombia, Zambia declared that it was mine free and there by complied with Article 5 of the Convention ahead of schedule.

However, Zambia continues to face problems of ERWs and as such spot destruction, mine risk education and victim assistance programmes have continued in the affected communities. In recent months 40 hand grenades, 17 mortar bombs, 15 cluster bombs, 2 anti-Tanks Mines(TM 57), 5 rocket propelled grenades and 20 blocks of TNT explosives were discovered and destroyed in different affected areas of the Country. Given this high prevalence of ERWs, the pattern of contamination which is often littered and unpredictable, makes it difficult to identify all infested areas for clearance. In this regard, Zambia will be looking at engaging States and organisations that have the technical know-how to help in eradicating these weapons.

Mr. President

In concluding, the Zambian delegation would like to encourage States Parties that still have obligations under Article 5 to find ways towards rapid implementation of the Article. We also encourage those states requesting for extensions to operate in accordance with the commitments made.

I thank you Mr. President