



Republic of Zambia

Statement at First International Pledging Conference for the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention – A Mine Free World by 2025: “The Last Stretch” - 2nd March, 2016

I thank you Chairperson and wish to commend you for your leadership in organizing this First International Pledging Conference for the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention – A Mine Free World by 2025: “The Last Stretch” for which we are proud to be part of.

Taking into account the achievements scored in the Ottawa Convention, overcoming the remaining challenges would not be farfetched if only we continue working together as one. We stand to make reality the ambition of the Maputo +15 Declaration by 2025 as long as our political commitment remains unwavering.

Zambia attaches great importance to the humanitarian cause of the Convention because of the inherent nature of improving people’s lives. It is in this regard that we have remained actively engaged in the implementation of its activities and are looking forward to walking the last mile of the stretch of a Mine free world by 2025 together with others.

Chairperson

In an effort to encourage ownership of the Convention, inclusiveness is inescapable and other means of ensuring bringing on board as many states as possible to support the work of the ISU would be needed. We therefore, wish to call upon the Presidency to explore additional models by conducting dialogue on the subject of financing the ISU over the mid and long term basis as agreed upon during the 2015 Meeting of States Parties to the Convention.

Zambia, like other States Parties is equally facing economic challenges as a result of the global economic trends. That notwithstanding the Zambian government has in the interim decided to pledge the sum of **Five Thousand United States Dollars (US\$ 5000)** over a period of **five (5) years**, as a demonstration of the seriousness it attaches to the convention.

We therefore wish to commend the Implementation Support Unit for its support to member states in implementing the convention based on various obligations in line with both the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan.

I thank you Chairperson