



**STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA AT THE TENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND FROM 29 NOVEMBER TO 3 DECEMBER 2010**

I wish to begin by congratulating you, Mr. President on your election as President of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, this meeting will be a great success. Furthermore, I assure your Presidency of Zambia's support in the execution of this onerous task. Also I take this opportunity to congratulate all the other bureau members on their well deserved election.

**Mr. President, Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,**

As we meet again to review Progress made since the Cartagena Summit a year ago, Zambia is gratified to see how much effort States and other Friends of the Convention have made in adapting to changing Convention priorities. Stakeholders have ensured that as priorities have evolved over time so has their focus.

In this regard, on behalf of the Zambian Government, I wish to commend you Mr. President for allocating a substantial amount of time during this week's programme to allow for further detailed discussion on the matter of international cooperation and assistance. Zambia has consistently underscored the importance of enhanced cooperation and assistance in the realisation of the core objectives of the Mine Ban Convention. It is undeniable that cooperation and assistance is critical to the actualization of these objectives. This, Excellencies and Distinguished delegates, was the rationale behind our proposal for the creation of a new Standing Committee over a year and half ago.

Mr. President, the proposed Standing Committee will facilitate the exchange of information and develop strategies to ensure adequate and predictable

levels of human, technical and financial support for mine action (that is, resource mobilization) as well reinforce the efficient and effective use of resources (i.e resource utilisation). Zambia further proposes that the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties agree that the first meeting of the new Standing Committee shall be held during the Intersessional Meetings in June 2011 and that the meeting should focus on further developing the terms of reference of the new Standing Committee. Leadership for the Committee would be elected at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties.

**Mr. President, Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,**

Over the last 11 years that the Convention has been in force, affected states and donors have had reasonable success in generating funds but these have not been sufficient to meet all the needs of affected states. The situation is unlikely to improve in the near future. Therefore, the introduction of a new Standing Committee would be an appropriate way of ensuring that adequate time and attention is devoted to this critically important issue in a wider meeting so that all delegations can participate and benefit. We would particularly like to highlight the importance of bringing these discussions into plenary sessions which would ensure the full participation of smaller delegations. Furthermore, this would be an effective forum to advance greater south-south cooperation.

**Mr. President, Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,**

Zambia continues to emphasise that the proposed new Standing Committee would offer like-minded stakeholders the opportunity to have in-depth discussions and exchanges on best practices and innovative strategies in the achievement of Convention objectives . The sessions will offer participants the opportunity to brainstorm and share national experiences, ideas, and initiatives on the generation of resources by both affected and donor states and the efficient and effective utilization of resources with a view to maximizing the humanitarian and development impact of our work.

We hope that these interactions will move the focus of discussions from largely the provision of assistance to countries lacking capacity to the

myriad of benefits to be gained from promoting partnership. Certainly, not only does cooperation build up national capacities, it also allows for all States to participate in the realisation of the core objectives of the Convention.

We therefore, urge all concerned stakeholders not to miss an opportunity to reinforce the successes scored thus far by rendering their support to the establishment of a new Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance.

May I take this opportunity to commend Canada which has indicated that it would be willing to fold work under its Linking Mine Action and Development (LMAD) contact Group into the new Standing Committee in order that all states can engage on this issue. Similarly, Norway is also willing to do the same with its Contact Group on resource utilization.

**Mr. President, Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,**

In concluding my remarks, Zambia wishes to re-emphasise that the focus for the new Standing Committee should not be the submission of requests for assistance by States but rather the exchange of information on how best to mobilize existing or new resources. Zambia wishes to thank the Coordinating Committee and immediate past President for their formal recommendation for decision by this Meeting on the establishment a new Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance.

I thank you.