



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

INTERVENTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA DURING THE 18TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

GENEVA, 16 TO 20 NOVEMBER, 2020

Thank you Mr. President,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you on the exceptional manner in which you have facilitated the holding of this Meeting of States Parties despite the extraordinary circumstances that we are facing as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zambia wishes to remind all State Parties that non-compliance of any core article of the mine ban convention puts the credibility of the treaty at risk. Delayed implementation of Article 5 by any State which formally agreed to be bound by it, further brings the integrity of the Convention into question. In this regard, we wish to reiterate what has been said many times at the Meetings of States Parties of this convention, that it is the responsibility of every State Party to ensure compliance.

Mr. President, as has been pointed out by Canada, the Chair of the Article 5 Committee, pursuant to the decisions of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Meetings of States Parties, a failure by any State Party to submit an extension request in line

with the provision of the Convention, constitutes a case of non-compliance. In this connection, we are concerned that Eritrea has neither requested an extension nor furnished the Committee with details of the status of its activities in terms of its Article 5 obligations. It is imperative that Eritrea promptly adheres to the provisions of the convention by giving updates on the status of any progress made to date.

In this regard, we encourage Eritrea to quickly address this issue and provide the necessary information required to ensure that its Article 5 obligations are fulfilled, including the submission of an Article 7 Transparency Report. We look forward to hearing good news from Eritrea soon.

I thank you Mr. President