



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA IN RESPONSE TO THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES PROPOSAL ON THE ARTICLE 5 PROCESS

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor.

I wish to state for the record that I make this intervention in my national capacity and not on behalf of the Article 5 Committee.

My delegation would like to thank the ICBL for sharing its views on the extension process with Zambia. The extension process has certainly been made difficult over nearly the last two years, with the ongoing pandemic.

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to state that the process established by the States Parties is a collaborative one and includes cooperative dialogue between the Committee and the State Party in question. I wish to remind you that the process established by the States Parties at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties includes the Committee reaching out to technical and legal experts to support the process. This year was no different as input from many of the organizations that are working on the ground in the different countries was received.

Equally, if not more importantly, is that States Parties and partners particularly those on the ground supporting the States Parties understand the process and the deadlines and rally around this opportunity to pause, reassess and plan ahead.

However, it is important that the process be followed and that the 14 recommendations adopted by the 12MSP, including those associated with ensuring that high quality requests continue to be submitted, ensuring that high quality analyses continue to be prepared, ensuring a cooperative engagement of Article 5 implementing States Parties continues after requests have been granted, be adhered to. I would invite all to review these recommendations. Adherence to these recommendations would ensure that the process runs smoothly.

One of the main issues that has made the work of the committee increasingly difficult is that of late submission of requests and the ongoing pandemic. The late

submission of requests makes the process and the recommendations extremely difficult to follow. Other challenges include the scarcity of resources/ funding, lack of capacity and for some states, their security situations came into play.

So, in this regard, it is important that States Parties address these issues and submit their request by no later than 31 March of each year. Zambia considers that this is the greatest impact on the extension request process. We believe the extension request process established by the States Parties is sound. However, strict adherence to the process and in-country processes are key to its success.

That being said, further dialogue over this matter, with the Committee mandated by the States Parties to handle extension requests, is welcome, taking into account the aforesaid and provided concrete and clear proposals on how to improve the current process can be presented. We wish to reiterate that the tools are available to support the Article 5 process.

I thank you Mr. President