



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA AND VIENNA**

**2025 Intersessional Meeting
Intervention Statement by the Republic of Zambia on Universalisation of
The Anti-Personnel Land Mine Ban Convention
20 June 2025**

Madam President,

I would like to express my delegation's sincere gratitude for the exceptional leadership you and your team have demonstrated thus far. Your unwavering commitment to our collective mission is truly commendable.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my delegation's warm congratulations to the Marshall Islands and to welcome them to the convention.

Madam President,

Zambia expresses its deep concern regarding the current status of our convention and reaffirms our steadfast commitment to it, which we have consistently supported. We have noted with some worry the intention of Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland to withdraw from the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. While we acknowledge the complex security dynamics in their region, particularly in light of prevailing geopolitical tensions, we feel it is imperative to highlight that such decisions carry profound implications not only for their immediate neighbouring areas but for the global community at large. Such withdrawals risk undermining decades of diligent progress in the realms of disarmament and humanitarian protection. They may also set a precedent, prompting other States to reconsider their international obligations, thereby weakening legal norms and the protective framework inherent in international humanitarian law. In this context, my delegation strongly encourages these States Parties to explore effective, lawful, and humanitarian defence alternatives that will uphold both national security and treaty obligations.

Madam President,

At its 1271st Meeting in April 2025, the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) commemorated the International Day for Mine Awareness and



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Assistance in Mine Action, underlining the vital importance of Instruments like the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in preserving norms against weapons that continue to inflict harm, even after conflicts have ceased. Treaties of this nature are pivotal to international humanitarian law; they significantly mitigate civilian suffering and guide State conduct during periods of conflict.

As a member of the African Union, we echo the PSC's profound concerns regarding the persistent and escalating threats posed by anti-personnel mines and improvised explosive devices, particularly regarding their devastating humanitarian and socio-economic impacts on vulnerable populations and children. We would like to remind all present that as States Parties to this Convention, our collective aim remains to alleviate the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel landmines through unwavering commitment to the Convention's foundational objectives.

In conclusion, Madam President,

Zambia is wholly committed to fulfilling its obligations, as should all other States Parties, in accordance with the Preamble of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), which encourages us to ***"work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalisation."***

We recognize that there is immense strength in unity. As an age-old African proverb wisely states, ***"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."*** This wisdom underscores the critical importance of collaboration and solidarity in achieving our enduring goals.

Distinguished delegates, our vision is indeed one of long-term success, and now, more than ever, the global community must enhance, rather than diminish, the prohibition of these weapons. We must diligently work to convert our commitments into actionable results. In these challenging times, it is essential that our actions reflect our principles. The Convention has never been more vital than it is today. Together, let us earnestly endeavour to eradicate the threat of anti-personnel landmines from our global community.

I Thank you.