



Republic of Zambia

**STATEMENT BY HON. GABRIEL NAMULAMBE, M.P, DEPUTY
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT THE THIRD REVIEW
CONFERENCE OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN
CONVENTION HELD IN MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE FROM**

23RD TO 27TH JUNE, 2014

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

Zambia commends you for the excellent work you have put in towards the Maputo Third Review Conference both at the first and second preparatory meetings in Geneva as well as the follow up meetings conducted through the Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Pedro Comissario. We commend the Secretariat of Implementation Support Unit, for providing adequate information, making the proceedings of the Conference possible. These concerted efforts put together have made this Conference a success. Your determination and diligence in the preparation of this Conference should be an inspiration to all. You can be assured of my Country's full support as you discharge your duties as President of this Conference.

I further wish to thank the Mozambican Government and its people for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Maputo.

Mr. President

As we are gathered at this Third Review Conference to assess the performance and progress of our commitment regarding the Conventions' aims, we recognise the need to adopt the Maputo Action Plan that will guide our efforts to universalize and implement the convention within stipulated time frame. The establishment of the updated implementation machinery to address the changing circumstances and new challenges is paramount to the achievement of our goal to make the world free of mines. **In this regard, my delegation applauds the adoption of the three documents by this conference.**

While it is evident enough that progress has been made in universalizing the Convention, it is worrying that thirty-six countries are still outside the Convention with some having the capacity to produce these

indiscriminate weapons. The world therefore, remains unsafe and the goals of the Convention are still far-fetched. The need for Maputo+15 Declaration for renewed commitment to comply and complete, within the spirit of cooperation and partnership is welcomed and Zambia pledges her support.

Mr. President,

The Ottawa Convention has achieved tremendous progress as witnessed in the number of the states that have chosen to be bound by it. The universal adherence and acceptance to the norms is but one of the key areas on which the success of the convention rests.

It may be recalled that at the Nairobi Summit we set the pace and at the Cartagena Summit we reaffirmed our commitment to universalize the Convention and to strengthen its norms.

We are here today in Maputo fifteen years after the First Meeting of States Parties to assess our commitments, achievements and the challenges in the implementation of the Convention. The Maputo meeting therefore, has given us that opportunity to reflect and chat the way forward in our resolve to implement the Convention. I am confident that the Maputo Action Plan is of essence and answers to the calls for which the International Community is made to convene.

Mr. President,

As one of the States Parties that subscribed to the Cartagena Declaration and appended its signature for implementation of the Action Plan to eradicate anti-personnel mines, Zambia remains committed to support the efforts aimed at achieving these objectives.

Mr. President

Due to the decentralization policy and ambitious infrastructure development plan the Zambian Government has embarked on, more land is being opened up for new settlements and economic development. This has led to new reports of ERWs contamination. However, due to the nature of ERW contamination which is difficult to determine as their occurrence has no definite pattern, the need to determine the extent of residual contamination of wider scope will be necessary.

Mr. President,

In the area of Victim Assistance, while we continue our efforts to enhance the lives of victims, we are also building on our national survey to include the former combatants from the liberation struggles that Zambia supported and have since been locally integrated.

Mr. President,

In the past five years, we have continued to undertake Mine Risk Education programmes in order to sensitize communities living in areas cleared under Article 5 and other suspected contaminated areas. We wish to thank all the cooperating partners that have continued to assist us in undertaking MRE programmes. We acknowledge that it is only through such a comprehensive approach and partnerships that together, we can achieve the objectives of the Convention. Zambia therefore, wishes to encourage all Stakeholders to the Convention to support cooperative initiatives including the work of this Standing Committee on cooperation and assistance.

Mr. President

Zambia also commends States Parties that have been able to assist other States Parties in need of assistance in Mine Clearance, Mine Risk

Education, Stockpile Destruction, Victim Assistance and other obligations of the Convention. We urge all States Parties still in a position to do so to continue their support to States Parties seeking to receive such assistance.

Mr. President,

We support the inclusion of the 2025 target date in the Political Declaration, and we hope it will guide the Action Plan as well if it has to be as ambitious as to meet our objectives, we believe the proposed text is acceptable as a reflection of the bare minimum for which we should strive for.

In conclusion, **Mr. President,** Zambia supports the need for attainment of all the thematic areas of the convention as contained in the Maputo Action Plan which provides clear guidance for the States Parties to support the convention and its norms. As we reaffirm our commitment, through the Maputo Declaration, Zambia is calling on all States Parties, Non-States Parties and stakeholders to double their efforts in the universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty.

I thank you.