



**Statement by the Republic of Zambia on the Declaration of Completion on the Implementation of Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction at the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World/Second Review Conference Cartagena, Colombia, 30 November – 4 December 2009**

**Madam President,**

At the Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Zambia appraised distinguished delegates and Friends of the Convention on the progress being made by Zambia in its quest to clear all known mined areas well ahead of its deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011. At that meeting, we reported that a nationwide landmine survey was underway to ascertain the true extent and nature of the mine contamination in the country. We were also optimistic that the country would be Article 5 compliant before the Second Review Conference.

Today, Madam President I have the honour – and great pleasure – to present a formal declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention by Zambia.

Zambia has complied with its Article 5 obligations and is now a mine free country. The Republic of Zambia ratified the Ottawa Convention on 23 February 2001 and submitted its initial transparency report on 31 August 2001. The transparency report indicated that there were areas under Zambia's jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced. In so doing, Zambia acknowledged that it had an obligation under article 5 of the Convention to verify and clear suspected mined areas.

In its 2004 Transparency report, Zambia reported that a general survey was undertaken which identified 20 confirmed and suspected mined areas. Later, a total of 41 locations around the country were listed for further survey.

In 2008 within the framework of the Completion Initiative and with support from the Canadian and Swedish Governments through the UNDP; Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) was contracted to undertake a comprehensive landmine impact survey which was geographically confined to 7 out of the country's 9 provinces. Most of these were along the borders with Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe. The survey which ended on 30 June 2009 reported that after considering a total of 50 districts consisting of 971 wards; Zambia was found to no longer have hazardous areas containing anti-personnel mines or anti-vehicle mines. All known areas containing mines had been adequately cleared by the Zambian Army. The army had also cleared an unknown quantity of ERW.

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Zambia's Statement to the Second Review Conference of the AP Mine Ban Convention on Tuesday 1 December 2009 on Agenda Item Review of the Operation and Status of the Convention: Clearing Mined Areas held in Cartagena, Colombia from 30 November

The Survey Report established that the problem in Zambia is that of Unexploded Ordnance, Abandoned Ordnance and Cluster Munitions contamination rather than of landmines. It reported that Zambia had 3 confirmed hazardous areas - 2 containing cluster munitions and 1 containing bulk abandoned ordnance (AXO). In addition 15 suspected hazardous areas contained sporadic abandoned ordnance and unexploded ordnance. Therefore, a total of 35 suspected hazard areas were identified during the survey 12 of which were hazardous roads and 23 areas suspected to have been military camps, positions or battlefields. Through a non-technical survey and in collaboration with the local communities and local authorities, all the 12 roads and another 12 SHAs were released. Of the remaining 11 areas, NPA has so far cleared 3 and these are in the process of being handed over to the local communities. Work continues on the other areas.

The survey methodology utilized teams of multi-skilled surveyors and included techniques such as a primary opinion collection, non-technical survey, false negative sampling and false positive sampling. A comprehensive report of this declaration is available as an official document of the Second Review Conference.

**Madam President,**

Zambia has determined that there are no longer areas under its jurisdiction and control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. The detailed survey report by Norwegian People's Aid provides extensive and detailed information in this regard. It is therefore on this basis that Zambia formally declares its completion of the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention. However, Zambia now remains with the challenge of clearing explosive remnants of war which have been the major cause of accidents in the country in the last 5 years. External assistance will be required to undertake the extensive clearance and risk education exercises planned for the coming year.

In the unlikely event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this declaration, Zambia undertakes, firstly; to report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7; secondly, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5 and thirdly, to destroy or ensure destruction of all such mines, making its need known to other States Parties.

In concluding, Madam President, the Zambian government reiterates its deep gratitude to all its cooperating partners especially the UNDP and the governments of Canada, Sweden, Norway and the USA that have rendered support to Zambia's mine action programme in its pursuit of being a mine free country. Zambia continues to urge all those in a position to assist other States Parties both financially and technically in meeting Convention deadlines to do so at the earliest possible opportunity.

Thank you, Madam President.