



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

STATEMENT BY HON. PROF. F PHIRI, M.P.
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AT
THE CARTAGENA SUMMIT ON A MINE-FREE WORLD,
SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE AP MINE BAN CONVENTION
HELD IN CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA
FROM 30 NOVEMBER – 4 DECEMBER 2009

Friday, 4th December 2009

Your Excellency, president of the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World,

Your Royal Highnesses,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

Madam President, may I begin by congratulating you on your election as president of this second review conference of the mine ban convention. On behalf of the Republic of Zambia, I also wish to commend your Excellency for the exceptional work that you and your team have undertaken in the preparations and leadership of this successful summit. Your tireless efforts are admirable and I take this opportunity to assure you madam president of my country's full support in the execution of your duties during your presidency.

Above all, I would like to sincerely thank our gracious hosts, the government of the Republic of Colombia, for the outstanding organization of this summit and for the memorable hospitality to my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful country.

Distinguished delegates

Zambia remains committed to the objectives of the Ottawa convention. Although Zambia is proud of its accomplishments, having become a state party to the convention that has now completed implementation of its obligation under article 5.1, the wider effort to address the problems caused by other explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the country will continue to be undertaken. ERW contamination is a major concern for Zambia and risk reduction efforts will have to continue as long as this risk exists. Therefore, risk education will continue to be critical in reducing civilian death and injury. We will however, require assistance to carry out these remnants clearance and risk education exercises. In this regard, Zambia fully supports Cartagena Action Plan No. 40 which promotes the provision of such assistance.

Zambia has always – and continues - to advocate for increased cooperation amongst states parties and non - states parties in achieving the noble objectives of the convention. We fully support Section 5 of the Cartagena Action Plan particularly Action nos. 39, 44, 45 & 47 which seek to establish and strengthen cooperation amongst States Parties and other concerned parties.

In the same vein, Zambia continues to urge states parties to seriously consider the need for the creation of a standing committee on resource identification, mobilization and utilization that would adequately and in a timely manner address and offer advice to states parties in need of assistance. This assistance could be technical, material, financial or advisory in nature. We believe that one of the major challenges of the convention is the need for article 6 to be given more attention than it has received so far. We are therefore gratified to note that several distinguished delegations have supported Zambia's proposal on this very important matter. As we stated at the 2nd preparatory meeting last September, we believe that such a standing committee could critically look at all aspects of the challenges faced in the field regarding resources, including mobilization, utilization, how in practice available resources can be identified and how new resources can be identified, both nationally and internationally.

In the period between this conference and the third review conference, Zambia will also undertake to enhance assistance to landmine and ERW survivors. More efforts will be made by my government to ensure that appropriate assistance gets to the survivors as required. This is a challenge which will require both financial and technical assistance to overcome. Thus there remains much work to be done on this pillar of the convention and my government is committed to do its utmost to provide for the victims. Like all other key obligations of the convention, there is need for cooperation and assistance to achieve more in this area.

Madam President, Zambia subscribes to the Cartagena declaration and is honoured to append its signature to it. Our government will endeavour as much as possible to implement the plan in the next 5 years.

In conclusion, the Zambian government would like to once again thank all its cooperating partners particularly the governments of Canada, Sweden, Norway and the United States of America as well as the UN agencies and the implementation support unit for their technical and financial support to Zambia's mine action programmes. Zambia continues to appeal to all friends of the convention in a position to assist states parties yet to comply with their treaty obligations to do so at the earliest opportunity to ensure its further successes.

I thank you, Madam President.