REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DELIVERED
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

08 October 2010

NEW YORK
Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this Committee, a compliment I also extend to the other members of the bureau. I am confident that under your leadership, the Committee will be able to undertake its task to its successful conclusion.

The Zambian delegation also aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Nigerian and Indonesian delegations on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement respectively.

Mr. Chairman

Nuclear free zones are an important means for the promotion of cooperation on global efforts to prevent nuclear non-proliferation. I wish in this regard to inform you that Zambia has ratified the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (the Treaty of Pelindaba) and has since deposited its instruments of ratification with the African Union. This further strengthens our commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). We also support the efforts being made under other regional nuclear weapons free zones.
In this regard, Zambia looks forward to enhanced cooperation and consultation among the exiting nuclear weapons free zones through the establishment of concrete measures, in order to implement the good principles and objectives of their respective treaties and contribute to the implementation of the Treaty regimes.

President OBAMA's support of the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) has renewed momentum in global arms control and disarmament efforts and has ushered in new optimism of fresh commitments to disarmament issues. As a consequence the Conference on Disarmament (CD) was held in New York early this year after 12 years of stalemant. Following many years of stagnation, disarmament and non-proliferation issues have started to move in the right direction.

Mr. Chairman,

The Zambian Government has always advocated and supports global efforts to address all Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). It is clear that with existing weapons technology, no country is safe from the threats or use of these weapons. Chemical and biological weapons pose a threat to developing countries in the absence of technology to mitigate abuse. In this regard, Zambia is committed to the
guiding principles of the chemical and biological conventions, and calls for their universalisation as a way forward for the total elimination of the risk of either a biological or chemical warfare.

Mr. Chairman,

The problem of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) has continued to be one of great concern to Zambia. This situation has been further exacerbated by the unregulated global trade in SALW.

As a developing country with limited resources, Zambia’s implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects has been slow-paced but determined, and as such, Zambia has always welcomed international, regional and sub-regional cooperation in this aspect. In this regard, Zambia welcomes the assistance of the Regional Centre for Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA) which supplied a firearm pin marking machine on 16th December, 2009. The firearm pin marking machine will go a long way in enhancing Zambia’s support for the establishment of an international system for the marking of all weapons and ammunitions.
Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to report that the National Land Mine Survey exercise conducted in my country from August, 2008 to July, 2009 concluded that all mined areas are safe for normal human activity. Zambia’s clearing of all mined areas has been done ahead of schedule as regards our obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, which we ratified in 2001. In this regard Zambia appreciated the assistance co-operating partners rendered towards this achievement.

Related to this is the problem of unexploded remnants of war which has remained contentious especially in rural areas bordering neighbouring countries experiencing conflicts and where liberation wars were more intensive. In this connection Zambia welcome any assistance in the identification and clearing of the affected areas.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia welcomes the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions by Burkino Faso and Moldova that enabled the Convention to enter into force. This development is an important one in the global community’s efforts towards
stopping the serious violation of international humanitarian laws associated with the use of cluster munitions.

Mr. Chairman,

As a troop contributing country, Zambia wishes to express its concern on both decision making and mandates of peace keeping missions. The lack of clarity in the mandates often endanger the lives of peace keepers. The recent incidents where peace keepers have been shot and killed by rebels is a clear example of the dangers posed to them. I wish therefore to call upon the United Nations Security Council to consider reviewing the mandates of peacekeepers.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my Government believes that the realization of international peace and security can only be achieved through a multilateral framework. In this regard, it is my hope that under your good leadership, the First Committee will be able to contribute to this realization.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.