Statement by Zambia at the Second Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Mexico presented by Her Excellency Ms. Encyla Chishiba Tina Sinjela, Zambia's Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva
The Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the Government of Mexico for the warm welcome and hospitality and for hosting this Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear weapons as a follow-up to the 2013 Oslo Conference. This immediate action consolidates the momentum by all well meaning participants it be states, international organizations, the civil society as well as individuals willing to witness in the near future a convention that would ban the use of these indiscriminate weapons.

Chairperson

While aligning ourselves to the statement presented on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement countries, we note that the two days of well reasoned presentations by the experts and the testimonies of the Hibakusha, building on the Oslo process leave no doubts in our mind as to the immediate and long term effects that any nuclear detonation would cause to humanity. The calls made by most of the delegations here in Nayarit signifies the common understanding by states, the international organisations and the civil society for further action.

against the production, stockpile and use of nuclear weapons.

We therefore welcome the offer by the Government of Austria to host
the next Conference and we hope it would be held against the background of concrete steps to realise the understanding that nuclear weapons can be indiscriminate and devastating hence the need for a common goal of a total ban on their use.

The idea of a comprehensive ban of nuclear weapons has gained grip in the multilateral system over the past couple of years, having been presented and discussed on numerous occasions, both among states and the civil society. Since the first conference in Oslo, we have seen increased activities to push the agenda forward in Africa and elsewhere at bilateral, regional and international level to share thoughts and ideas on how countries could contribute to strengthening the humanitarian discourse on nuclear weapons and towards the negotiation of a comprehensive ban of nuclear weapons.

Chairperson,

Despite, some regions enjoying the privilege of being nuclear weapon free Zones, they would not be shielded from the effects of nuclear weapons. On the contrary, the effects would be the same and would have particularly devastating impact for example on Africa due to limited resources available for building preparedness and response capacity. A ban on the production of these weapons therefore is the preferable first step towards elimination of nuclear weapons and we encourage this humanitarian approach to nuclear weapons as the most plausible
argument in the fight for the total ban of nuclear weapons.

Having noted that the world is not prepared to provide humanitarian assistance in the event of a nuclear weapon catastrophe, Africa stands to lose more because it is beyond the capacity of African states to alleviate the humanitarian consequences of a nuclear detonation whether accidental or intentional. It is, therefore, in the best interest of African countries to push for a ban on the production, use and stockpiling of nuclear weapons.

Considering that there is no process at the moment towards the banning of nuclear weapons, these discussions on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons should therefore override everything else including politics and security concerns. By using the humanitarian narrative, the security logic of these weapons would be dismissed altogether. The importance of removing politics from the quest for nuclear weapons debate is inevitable as little would be gained by engaging in discussions about deterrence and nuclear doctrines.

Zambia will continue to support the effort that will follow after this conference regarding the call to ban the production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons.

I thank you