



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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DELEGATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**DELIVERED AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE**

OF

**THE 63RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York

10th October, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Committee, a compliment that I also extend to the other members of the Bureau. I am confident that you will successfully preside over the work of the Committee, and in this regard, I assure you of my delegations full support.

Zambia fully associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished Representatives of Indonesia and Nigeria, who spoke on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement and the African Group, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

We, the Member States of the United Nations, have adopted the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Regional Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaties like the Pelindaba and Tlatelolco Treaties, the Chemical Weapons Convention and other treaties and conventions whose objective is the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In addition, resolutions on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, such as Resolution 61/62, have been adopted calling on both the Non-Nuclear and Nuclear Weapon States of the United Nations to fully cooperate in pursuing and achieving the common objectives in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. Zambia notes with concern however, that today, the prospect of living in a world free of nuclear weapons, is more elusive than it was four decades ago – with some nuclear states developing more sophisticated and greater arsenals of such weapons. To arrest this situation, the Nuclear Weapon States must muster the political will and flexibility to come up with measures to ensure full compliance and implementation of the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and, the remaining Annex II States must ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty for it to enter into force.

Mr. Chairman,

The Illicit Trade and Transfer in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) continues to fuel internal and regional conflicts, thereby posing a serious threat to peace, stability and development, particularly for many regions of the developing world. In this connection, Zambia wishes to acknowledge the positive contribution which the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) is making towards controlling illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. We join other Member States and civil society organizations in calling for the full implementation of an ITI in order to enable global states identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. Furthermore, Zambia welcomes the progress made in July 2008, on implementing the 2001 Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms in All Its Aspects. The 2008 Outcome Document, indeed, represents significant progress to regulate and reduce the proliferation of these conventional weapons. In due course, Zambia will submit

her financial and technical assistance requirements, and the projects to be undertaken to enable the effective implementation of the Programme of Action. We also welcome efforts at concluding an international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), as this will control the irresponsible and illicit transfer of conventional arms.

With regard to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Zambia coordinated on behalf of Africa, the discussions on this very important Convention. Following the African Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which was held from 29th – 30th September 2008, in Kampala, Uganda, and in keeping in line with the “Kampala Action Plan”, which was adopted during the Conference, it is our expectation that all African States will sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in Oslo, Norway on 3rd December 2008. We also appeal to all other States to do the same so that cluster munitions are eradicated.

As a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on Their Destruction, Zambia continues to demonstrate its commitment in implementing the provisions of this Convention. As at 2007, approximately US \$250,000 had been spent on clearing 7 of the 41 known mined areas in our country, as well as, carrying out of some preliminary nation-wide surveys to determine other areas of possible mine contamination. We call upon our cooperating partners and the international community as a whole, to support our national efforts in this regard, including mine risk education. The decontaminated areas will enable the people engage in meaningful economic activity and contribute to economic development.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to state that in order to make further progress in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, all states should have the political will and flexibility to be party to and be committed to, implementing the provisions and obligations of the various relevant Treaties and Conventions. The annual amount of US \$1.3 trillion spent globally on armaments would go a long way in addressing the developmental concerns of the developing countries as well as contribute to the goal of attaining a more secure, peaceful and environmentally friendly world.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman