



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**STATEMENT ISSUED BY HON. DR. KALOMBO MWANSA MP.
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZAMBIA AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE NAIROBI
SUMMIT ON A MINE FREE WORLD: 2 – 3RD DECEMBER, 2004**

NOVEMBER, 2004

YOUR EXCELLENCY MWAI KIBAKI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KENYA,

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION IS PROUD TO BE IN NAIROBI, KENYA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION ALSO KNOWN AS THE OTTAWA CONVENTION. THE CONFERENCE IS VERY IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO STATE PARTIES, BUT ALSO TO THE MANY VICTIMS OF LANDMINES AND UNEXPLODED ORDINANCE (UXO), IN MANY COUNTRIES.

MR. PRESIDENT,

MY DELEGATION IS FULLY AWARE OF THE LONG PROCESS THAT HAS BROUGHT US TO NAIROBI. ZAMBIA COMMENDS, AMBASSADOR WOLFGANG PETRITSCH OF AUSTRIA, WHO SPENT THE LAST ONE YEAR TO GALVANISE THE PREPARATORY PROCESS THAT HAPPILY RESULTED IN

THIS HIGH PROFILE EVENT ON THE ISSUE OF LANDMINES SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE CONVENTION IN OTTAWA, CANADA IN DECEMBER, 1997.

MR. PRESIDENT,

WE HAVE COME TO NAIROBI, TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE THAT MY COUNTRY, ZAMBIA, ATTACHES TO THE CONVENTION. MY COUNTRY HAS BEEN PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH CULMINATED IN THE SIGNING CEREMONY AT OTTAWA ON 3RD AND 4TH DECEMBER, 1997. SINCE 1997, ZAMBIA HAS BEEN CO-SPONSORING UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES, INCLUDING THE RESOLUTION 58/41 ADOPTED LAST YEAR AND THE CURRENT ONE THAT WAS COORDINATED BY THE DELEGATION OF THAILAND.

MR. PRESIDENT,

I AM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT AFRICA, WHICH WITNESSED THE HORRORS CAUSED BY ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES, IS ON THE VERGE OF ATTAINING ITS DREAM OF MAKING THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AN ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES FREE ZONE. IT IS PLEASING TO FURTHER NOTE THAT MOST AFRICAN STATES ARE PARTY TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES CONVENTION. IT IS MY HOPE, THEREFORE THAT THOSE OF OUR FRIENDS IN AFRICA WHO ARE STILL ON THE PERIPHERY OF THIS CONVENTION JOIN

US IN OUR ENDEAVOR TO ERADICATE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES. I AM PLEASED THAT AFRICA HAS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE CONVENTION. IT WAS IN JUNE, 1997 WHEN AFRICAN LEADERS, ADOPTED A DECLARATION TO MAKE AFRICA ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES FREE ZONE. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE MINE BAN TREATY WAS HELD IN MAPUTO IN 1999, AND THE HOLDING OF THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE HERE IN NAIROBI THIS WEEK.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLES FOR THE NAIROBI SUMMIT ARE VERY HIGH. ZAMBIA HOPES NAIROBI WILL RENEW GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN THE COMING YEARS. WE, THEREFORE, NEED TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCORPORATING MINE ACTION IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS. THE NAIROBI SUMMIT, AS THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO EVALUATE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, BUT ALSO TO CHART THE COURSE FOR COMPLETE ERADICATION OF THE WEAPON BY THE SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED IN 2009. THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WILL REQUIRE A

COORDINATED APPROACH AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL.

MR. PRESIDENT,

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES ARE INDISCRIMINATE WEAPONS THAT KILL AND
MAIME BOTH COMBATANTS AND INNOCENT CIVILIANS. THEY ARE
WEAPONS THAT CAUSE TERRIBLE SUFFERINGS LONG AFTER THE END OF
ARMED CONFLICTS. IN ADDITION, BECAUSE OF THEIR NATURE, ANTI-
PERSONNEL MINES, CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO POST
CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFFECTED
COUNTRIES. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT MY DELEGATION,
HEARTLY WELCOMES THE FACT THAT 144 STATES HAVE OUTLAWED THE
USE, PRODUCTION, TRANSFER AND STOCKPILING OF THIS TERRIBLE
WEAPON. WORLD-WIDE MORE THAN 37 MILLION OF STOCKPILES, THAT
INCLUDE ALL ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES EARMARKED FOR DESTRUCTION IN
ZAMBIA, HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. OVER 126 STATES AROUND THE
WORLD NO LONGER CONSIDER ANTI-PERSONNEL LAND MINES AS
STRATEGIC WEAPONS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA NOTES WITH PRIDE THAT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, TRADE IN ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES HAS VITUALLY CEASED AND THAT PRODUCTION AS WELL AS USE OF THE WEAPON HAS BEEN REDUCED. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERScore THE NEED FOR UNIVERSAL ADHERENCE TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION.

MR. PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA IS COMMITTED TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND HAS MADE EFFORTS TO MEET THE CONVENTION'S DEADLINES. THE CONVENTION CAME INTO FORCE IN RESPECT OF ZAMBIA ON 1ST AUGUST, 2001. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3 OF THE CONVENTION, ZAMBIA IS REQUIRED TO DESTROY HER STOCKPILED ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES BY 1ST AUGUST, 2005. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE AS INDICATED EARLIER THAT THE COUNTRY HAS COMPLETED THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL STOCKPILED ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES EARMARKED FOR DESTRUCTION. A LIMITED NUMBER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IS BEING KEPT FOR TRAINING IN MINE CLEARANCE AND DESTRUCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION..

THE CONVENTION ALSO REQUIRES THAT EACH STATE PARTY DESTROYS OR ENSURES THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN MINED AREAS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION OR CONTROL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NOT LATER THAN TEN YEARS AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CONVENTION FOR THAT STATE PARTY. THIS MEANS THAT ZAMBIA IS REQUIRED TO CLEAR ALL MINED AREAS BY 2011. A GENERAL SURVEY RECENTLY CONDUCTED BY THE ZAMBIA ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES ACTION CENTRE IDENTIFIED 41 LOCATIONS SUSPECTED TO BE CONTAMINATED WITH MINES IN ZAMBIA. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT WITH SUFFICIENT RESOURCES, THESE AREAS COULD BE CLEARED BY THE END OF 2007. IN THIS REGARD I WISH TO THANK ALL COOPERATING PARTNERS WHO HAVE GREATLY ASSISTED US IN THE FIELD OF MINE ACTION.

DEMINING ACTIVITIES IN ZAMBIA ARE TIED TO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES. THIS IS BECAUSE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES RETARD DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. IN ORDER TO MITIGATE AGAINST THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF MINES, THE COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE IDENTIFIED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN AREAS WHICH ARE MINE CONTAMINATED.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN ORDER TO FURTHER ENHANCE SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, MY COUNTRY ENACTED LEGISLATION IN DECEMBER, 2003 OUTLAWING THE USE, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES. THIS IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION WHICH CALLS ON EACH STATE PARTY TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MEASURES, INCLUDING THE IMPOSITION OF PENAL SANCTIONS; TO PREVENT AND SUPPRESS ANY PROHIBITED ACTIVITY.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE OTTAWA CONVENTION IS ONE OF THE MANY INSTRUMENTS AT THE DISPOSAL OF HUMANKIND TO PROMOTE DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION. IT IS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTIONS. IT, THEREFORE, DESERVES THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON EQUAL BASIS. IN THIS REGARD, I APPEAL THAT MORE RESOURCES BE ALLOCATED TO MINE ACTION IN ALL COUNTRIES. IN ZAMBIA, MINE ACTION IS INCORPORATED IN THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND HAS ACQUIRED A HIGH PROFILE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

MR. PRESIDENT,

I WISH TO CONCLUDE BY EXPRESSING MY DELEGATION'S APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, AND THE GREAT CITY OF NAIROBI, FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO MY DELEGATION. THE CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE WE HAVE ENJOYED GOES TO DEMONSTRATE THE EXCELLENT PREPARATIONS FOR THE EVENT. MY DELEGATION IS PROUD THAT THIS AFRICAN CITY, RENOWNED FOR ITS HOSPITALITY IS HOST TO THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

I THANK YOU.