



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

ZAMBIA'S STATEMENT AT THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES CONFERENCE - ARMS TRADE TREATY - GENEVA

○ **CHAIRPERSON,**

1. AS THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, I AM TAKING THE FLOOR DURING THIS 2ND CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES ALLOW ME TO ADD OUR VOICE TO THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHO HAVE SPOKEN BEFORE US, IN CONGRATULATING YOU AND COMMENDING YOU FOR THE WORK YOU HAVE DONE IN ORGANISING THIS CONFERENCE.

○ **CHAIRPERSON,**

2. A YEAR AGO, DURING THE 1CSP IN MEXICO WE MADE A PRONOUNCEMENT THAT WE WERE IN THE PROCESS OF HAVING THE TREATY RATIFIED. I AM HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THAT AS I TAKE THE FLOOR, ZAMBIA IS A STATE PARTY HAVING RATIFIED THE TREATY ON 20TH MAY, 2016. THIS IS TRUE DEMONSTRATION OF OUR PROFOUND COMMITMENT TO THIS NOBLE CAUSE.

3. THE TREATY HAS SINCE ENTERED IN FORCE IN MY COUNTRY. HAVING REGARD TO THE FOREGOING, AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, ZAMBIA IS PUTTING IN PLACE MEASURES THAT WILL NECESSITATE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY. AMONG THE MEASURES BEING PUT IN PLACE ARE THE ENACTMENT OF APPROPRIATE NATIONAL LEGISLATION, BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITY IN VARIOUS RELATED INSTITUTIONS DEALING WITH ARMS, ENHANCING INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND COOPERATION AND DEVELOPING AWARENESS RAISING OF THE TREATY OBLIGATIONS AND ITS APPLICATION.

CHAIRPERSON,

4. ONE (01) YEAR AND SIX (06) MONTHS HAS PASSED SINCE THE ATT ENTERED INTO FORCE; THE REAL CHALLENGE AHEAD STILL LIES IN THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE TREATY. IF WE ARE TO IMPLEMENT IT EFFECTIVELY, THE **ATT** WILL HAVE A MAJOR POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE WAY THE ARMS TRADE OPERATES. ZAMBIA STILL REMAINS CONVINCED THAT IF THE TREATY IS IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY, IT WILL IMPROVE REGIONAL SECURITY AND STABILITY, REDUCE HUMAN SUFFERING CAUSED BY ILLEGAL ARMS TRANSFERS AND PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BY STATES PARTIES CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS.

5. ZAMBIA IS EQUALLY AWARE THAT FOR THE TREATY TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE THERE IS NEED FOR THE PROMOTION OF

ITS UNIVERSALIZATION. WE THEREFORE, CALL FOR A BIGGER AND DELIBERATE ROLE OF SUB-REGIONAL ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS TO ENCOURAGE MORE STATES TO RATIFY OR ACCEDE TO THE TREATY. AVENUES SUCH AS THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES SHOULD BE UTILIZED TO ENCOURAGE STATES WHO HAVE NOT YET RATIFIED TO DO SO. IT IS IN THIS REGARD THAT WE URGE SIGNATORY STATES TO RATIFY AND CALL ON THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET JOINED, ESPECIALLY THOSE ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, TO DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

CHAIRPERSON,

6. REGARDING THE TRUST FUND, AS A DEVELOPING NATION, ZAMBIA SUPPORTS THE CALL FOR HELP TO SUB-SAHARAN COUNTRIES FOR THEM TO BUILD SUFFICIENT INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES. FURTHERMORE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES WILL BE NEEDED TO FULLY IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE THIS TREATY. IN ORDER FOR US TO FULLY ATTEND TO SET OBJECTIVES, MY COUNTRY ALSO LOOKS FORWARD TO HEAR FROM THIS MEETING OF PROGRESSIVE MEASURES MEANT TO MAKE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUST FUND MOST VIABLE.

CHAIRPERSON,

7. THE OFF SHOOTS OF ILLICIT ARMS TRADE MOSTLY AFFECTS THE VULNERABLE GROUPS IN PARTICULAR THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN. IT IS ZAMBIA'S CONSIDERED VIEW THAT FOR THE TREATY TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE BOTH AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL, OUR WOMENFOLK SHOULD BE MADE TO BE ACTIVE BY ENGAGING THEM IN

POLICY FORMULATION AND WORKSHOPS DEALING WITH CAPACITY BUILDING.

8. IN CONCLUSION, MY COUNTRY WISHES TO THANK VARIOUS COOPERATING PARTNERS TOGETHER WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE ROLE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO PLAY ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY AND ITS UNIVERSALIZATION. IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT THESE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY WILL NOT TIRE FROM THESE NOBLE ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS THROUGH PROVISION OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND ADVISE TO STATES SEEKING HELP AT ANY STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION.

I THANK YOU!