

## **SUBMISSION BY ZAMBIA ON MINED AREAS DISCOVERED AFTER THE EXPIRY OF A STATE PARTY'S ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE**

Since this is the first time Zambia is taking the floor, allow me to express my gratitude to the President of the Eleventh Meeting of state parties for extending an invitation to enable us attend this meeting. In particular I wish to express my delegation's satisfaction with the meticulous manner in which the Co chairs are handling the discussions so far. The extensive research conducted by the co-chairs has enabled the deliberations to move at an impressive and smooth pace.

Zambia wishes to support the proposals made by the co-chairs. We believe that the proposals made provide a good basis for a robust discussion. They also provide for a rational response to situations where state parties discover previously unknown new mine areas.

The proposals to us are robust in that they do not deviate from the original object and purpose of the convention and that no legal obligation is undermined, nor do they create new legally binding obligations. The emphasis on transparency in the proposals is welcome considering that transparency is one of the hallmarks of the convention.

Madam Chair, the Zambian delegation sees merit in giving a deadline to those State parties that have discovered new mine areas and in our opinion five years is realistic. It is assumed that the newly discovered mines would not be so many. To this end we urge all States Parties to support the proposals put forward by the co chairs aimed at responding to situations of new discovery of mined areas after the expiry of a State Party's article five deadline.

I thank you.