

Your Excellency, the President of the 17MSP,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Since this is the first time for Zambia to take the floor, allow me to congratulate you and your team for steering this meeting this far. Allow me also to express our gratitude for the opportunity to make an intervention Statement on Article 5.

As you may be aware, Zambia was in 2009 declared mine free following recommendations of the Explosive Remnants of War Survey team led by the Norwegian People's Aid which was engaged to clear contaminated areas. The Clearance Final Report generally stated that all mines had been cleared at least in the investigated areas, excluding certain parts of the country which could not be accessed largely due to bad terrain as well as insufficient funds to warrant the extension of the investigations. Nevertheless, the Report did indicate a high possibility of the Explosive Remnants of War being found any time in the future especially in border areas that were heavily utilized by combatants from Zambia's neighboring countries who were fighting for their political independence.

You may wish to note Madam President, that Zambia has continued to discover Explosive Remnants of War in various parts of the country particularly the Eastern and Southern parts as envisaged by the NPA

person in June 2018. The President appealed to the private sector in Zambia, as part of their corporate social responsibilities, to assist survivors according to their needs. In the meantime, the Government plans to extend the President's gesture, by building reasonable shelter for the rest of the victims in their respective areas of domicile.

In addition, the Government has continued to provide free medical care for all the survivors of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War, and has included the majority of them on a Social Cash Transfer scheme that provides financial assistance to disabled persons particularly women and old aged people.

I thank you Madam President.