



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
GENEVA

## INTERVENTION STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor.

My delegation would like to thank Belgium for the paper entitled *“Reflections on the implementation of mine clearance obligations of States Parties and the Article 5 Extension Process”*. As my delegation expressed its views on the extension process at the last MSP, I wish to reiterate that position.

As we are all aware, the extension process has been affected by a number of factors and this has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Having chaired the Committee on Article 5 implementation, it is our considered view that the process established by the States Parties is a collaborative one and includes a cooperative dialogue between the Committee and the State Party in question. In this regard, my delegation is of the view that the creation of an *ad hoc* informal extension request subgroup as proposed in the draft paper will not remedy the problem at hand.

One of the main issues that has made the work of the Committee increasingly difficult is the issue of late submission of requests and the ongoing pandemic. The late submission of requests makes the process and the recommendations extremely difficult to follow. In this regard States Parties need to address these issues and endeavour to submit their requests no later than 31 March of each year.

It will be noted that the Committee counts on a cooperative dialogue with civil society to support the process. Every year, the Committee receives input and assistance from many of the organizations that work on the ground in the different countries. States Parties are grateful for the assistance provided by the various organisations in this regard.



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What is of paramount importance is that States Parties and partners, particularly those on the ground supporting the States Parties, understand the process and the deadlines and rally around this opportunity to pause, reassess and plan ahead.

My delegation would like to reiterate that it is important that the 14 recommendations adopted by the 12MSP and that the process established then be followed, including those associated with **ensuring that high quality requests continue to be submitted, ensuring that high quality analyses continue to be prepared, ensuring a cooperative engagement of Article 5 implementing States Parties continues after requests have been granted**, are adhered to. I urge all State Parties to review these 14 recommendations.

In view of the foregoing, My delegation is willing to consider the first and the third option provided in the draft paper by Belgium but not the second option relating to the creation of an Ad hoc Committee. We believe that these two options will have the greatest impact on the extension request process.

My delegation looks forward to continuing the discussion on this matter.