



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**FIRST COMMITTEE GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL
DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS**

**NEW YORK
5TH OCTOBER 2016**

MR. CHAIRMAN

Zambia takes the honour to congratulate you Ambassador Sabri Boukadoum on your assumption as Chairperson of this important committee. Let me assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

My delegation would also like to align itself with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement and Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

MR. CHAIRMAN

Zambia remains strongly committed to the notion of general and complete disarmament and reaffirms her support for a world free of nuclear weapons state. Given the humanitarian impact and the risks surrounding nuclear weapons, Zambia continues to be concerned over the lack of a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons. Arising from the multiple commitments many a state have made to nuclear disarmament throughout the year, we now have a unique opportunity to transform our numerous diplomatic processes into developing new international standards on nuclear weapons including developing a resolution that will allow a start of negotiations of a new international legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons. We need to identify an appropriate forum which will carry out a substantive work.

MR. CHAIRMAN

Zambia believes that eliminating nuclear weapons via a comprehensive treaty is the only guarantee against their use. These weapons of terror and mass destruction have no legitimate military utility and do not address any of today's real security threats such as terrorism, climate change, extreme poverty, over

population and disease, hence the need to outlaw these weapons to avoid their use both intentionally or accidental as to avoid catastrophic consequences.

MR. CHAIRMAN

Zambia acknowledges the contribution that the five regional Nuclear Weapons Free Zones (NWFZ) continue to make towards strengthening of global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament norms and consolidation of international efforts towards peace and security. My country is encouraged that African states are all states parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and have agreed to declare the continent a nuclear weapons free zone. Zambia therefore calls upon other regions which have not yet achieved such targets to work towards the realization of the target.

MR. CHAIRMAN

Zambia has continued to cooperate with the international partners on safe exploitation of nuclear technology. In this vein, Zambia has continued to support the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the strengthening of the agency's additional protocols. My country appreciates the achievements made by the agency in the radiation safety and safe guard's fields which are crucial to consolidating public confidence in the use of nuclear science and technology and to avoid nuclear catastrophes. Zambia urges the agency to remain resolute in its quest to secure a peaceful world.

MR. CHAIRMAN

Zambia remains strongly committed to the goals of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, and implores on the states that are still outside the convention to join and strengthen the international rejection of these weapons, regardless of the ability to possess cluster munitions. There is need for the global community to have a collective voice in favour of the ban, and for strengthening the body of

international humanitarian law and demonstration of solidarity with affected countries and victims.

MR. CHAIRMAN

Zambia continues to renew its commitment and effort towards the reduction, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. As a demonstration of her commitment, my country ratified the Arms Trade Treaty on 20th May 2016. Since ratification, Zambia has been putting in place measures that will necessitate the effective implementation of the Treaty. Among other measures being put in place are the enactment of appropriate national legislation, capacity building in various related institutions dealing with arms, enhancing interagency coordination and developing awareness of the Treaty obligations and its application.

Zambia is aware that the illicit proliferation and trafficking of conventional weapons, particularly Small Arms and Light Weapons continue to pose a serious threat to continental security, fueling of human conflicts, resulting in significant loss of lives and hindering post conflict reconstruction and development.

MR. CHAIRMAN

Having regard to the foregoing, Zambia welcomes the outcome documents from the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) on the UNPoA and Second Conference of States Parties (CSP2) on the ATT which provide key areas of potential synergy on dealing with arms transfer. Zambia calls for sustained efforts in ensuring that women who are mostly affected by the illicit trade in SALW are allowed to participate in all phases of UNPoA and ATT implementation. Zambia calls for a wider international cooperation and capacity building between capacity

states and less capacitated states. All these being done recognizing the intrinsic connections between sustainable development and peace and security.

MR. CHAIRMAN

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate my country's commitment and solidarity to global efforts of complete disarmament in all aspects.

I THANK YOU.