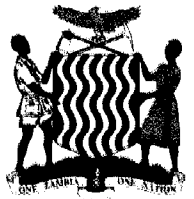


# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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## **STATEMENT BY**

**HON. DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
MR. DAVISON MULELA, MP**

## **AT THE**

**REVIEW CONFERENCE ON PROGRESS MADE IN THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION  
TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT  
TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

New York  
June 27, 2006

Mr. President,

Let me, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, start by joining delegations in congratulating you for your election to the Presidency of this Review Conference. I wish to commend your efforts and those of the Bureau in ensuring that this Conference takes place. It is my hope and that of my Government that we shall have fruitful deliberations and that the outcome of this conference will be to the benefit of mankind.

Mr. President,

I wish to align myself with statement made by the African Union. The problem of the illicit trade and small arms and light weapons has not escaped Zambia due to a number of reasons, which are both historical and current. The geographical situation of Zambia has mainly contributed to the problem especially due to the fact that she had been a host to combatants from neighbouring countries that were either involved in the liberation struggle or are currently facing internal conflict. As such, there has been a residue of small arms and light weapons including firearms and landmines and other unexploded ordinances that were left after the liberation wars or those that are being trafficked by former belligerents for economic reasons.

This, situation has posed a great challenge to the Zambian Government as it had a negative impact on socio-economic activities of the people especially in border areas. Most of these arms have been used to perpetrate crimes such as armed robberies, and poaching among others.

Mr. President,

In order to mitigate these challenges the Zambian Government has taken its own domestic measures to curb the scourge. In addition, Zambia has laws that deal with the issues of criminality and other aspects surrounding the matter. My Government has also included in the annual budgets, a line that seeks to facilitate activities related to the problem. Further, the Government has National Focal Point, which is composed of members of relevant Government institutions and civil society. The point of contact is the Office of the Inspector General of Police. At International and regional level, the Government has embraced all international efforts and cooperation in dealing with the problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. To this end Zambia is party to a number of regional and international agreements that are aimed at addressing the situation.

Mr. President,

Allow me to mention here that, while there has been political will by my Government to address the situation, there have been difficulties experienced in implementing some of the resolutions made due to lack of an inadequate financial

and technical capacity. The problem has also been compounded by the fact that there has been no effective mechanism in place to facilitate the execution of some of the laid down requirements. In this regard, I wish on behalf of my Government to appeal to cooperating partners to come to our aid and help us in tackling the problem especially in developing and implementing a National Programme of Action within the framework of the African Common Position and the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA). Let me take this opportunity to thank all those that have rendered assistance to my Government. In particular, I wish to commend the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the assistance it has rendered in making it possible for my Government to address some of the issues linked to the United Nations Programme of Action such as capacity building in submissions of reports.

Mr. President,

The issue of victim support is another area where more needs to be done. The matter is of significance due to the socio-economic implications that victims and in some cases their dependents have been made to experience. Therefore, we call for the international community to increase funding in this area.

Mr. President,

My Government recognizes the role of civil society and other stakeholders outside the review conference who are making attempts to try and deal with the problem. I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate my Government willingness to cooperate with members of civil society in raising public awareness to address the problem.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, my delegation joins others in calling for the United Nations Secretary-General to constitute an Intergovernmental Group that would look into the implementation of the various resolutions that have been made so far on this matter. It is our hope that once this body is constituted, significant results will be achieved.

In the same vein, the Conference may wish to consider the setting up of intersessional Standing Committees of Experts to meet in between biannual meetings as a way to further strengthen our efforts.