



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

AT THE 4TH BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

HELD IN NEW YORK AT THE UN HEADQUARTERS

ON 15TH JUNE 2010

Mr Chairman,

As Zambia is taking the floor for the first time, I wish on behalf of my delegation to congratulate Ambassador Pablo Macedo of Mexico for his well deserved election as Chairperson of the 4BMS. We would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau and pledge to work with them for a successful outcome of the meeting.

Zambia associates itself with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr Chairman, Zambia has attended and participated in all the UNPoA related events since 2001. At the 3BMS Zambia voted for the tabled resolutions on the UNPoA in the UNGA and other gatherings on the matter. Zambia also co-sponsored the UN Secretary General's consultation with member states on the question of the feasibility, scope and draft parameters of a would-be Arms Trade Treaty(ATT).

In 2008 Zambia submitted her views on this question and attended all UN First Committee Meetings on the matter, voting in favour in line with national policy on general and complete disarmament.

Zambia again spoke eloquently on the implementation of the UNPoA during the 2009 General Assembly and voted for the Convening of a Conference in 2012 on the ATT.

Mr Chairman, Zambia has also been working with African Union Member States on the question of SALW and the problems that the illicit trade, transfer and misuse of SALW causes the continent. Zambia is currently the Chair of the Conference on the Great Lakes Region and has been addressing the issues in the UNPoA with Member States and reporting regularly to the AU.

Furthermore, Zambia has made regular contributions to the Group of Governmental Experts on the ATT when called upon to do so and attended the Nairobi Africa-wide meeting on the matter.

Sub-regionally through the Secretariat of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs' Coordinating Organisation (SARPCCO) which serves as the SADC focal point on the SADC Firearms Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials, Zambia has played her part well and fully. To this end Zambia participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) on Small Arms and Light Weapons held in Swakopmund in Namibia.

Zambia then hosted the 4th RCC meeting in Lusaka from 26-30 October 2009 alongside a SADC workshop on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS) of the SADC Protocol.

Zambia cooperates with the Nairobi-based Regional Centre for Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA) as provided for under the UNPoA section on international cooperation and assistance. Under a Memorandum of Understanding with RECSA, Zambia received a PIN-Marking Machine in December 2009.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia remains committed to working within the framework on the open-ended working group on the Arms Trade Treaty and will fully participate at the upcoming PrepCom in July 2010 and in the subsequent years. Zambia calls for an effective and robust ATT that will have strong language on Human rights, international humanitarian law, gender and public health aspects. Zambia supports the view that without these considerations, the effectiveness of the PoA will be seriously undermined.

In conclusion, Zambia urges those states in a position to provide assistance to other Member States to do so in order to ensure their effective participation at the July 2010 Prepcom meeting.

Mr. Chairman, Zambia wishes to reaffirm its confidence in your able leadership to steer this Meeting to greater heights.

I thank you.