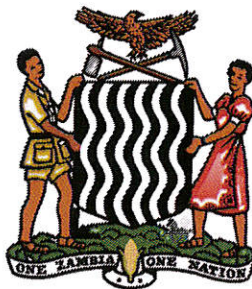


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**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
HON. RAYFORD MBULU, MP, DURING THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT  
OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES (CSP) TO THE  
ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT), TO BE HELD IN CANCUN, MEXICO  
FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**LUSAKA**

**August, 2015**

- **The Chairperson**
- **Representatives of States Parties and International Organizations**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Since Zambia is taking the floor for the first time, I wish to begin by joining earlier distinguished colleagues in congratulating you for superintending over the preparatory process and being chair of this conference.

I wish to thank the Government and People of Mexico for the wonderful hospitality and Courtesy extended to me and my delegation during our stay in this beautiful city of Cancun.

I wish to thank you for the able leadership with which you steered the work of the preparatory process leading to this historic conference. My delegation has taken note of the documentation prepared for the conference which we do acknowledge as a good basis for discussion by the various States and other Stakeholders gathered here. Let me assure you of my delegation's support and continued cooperation in achieving a fruitful outcome of the Conference.

Zambia recognizes the range of obligations that the ATT creates for States in the field of Arms Transfer controls and thus my country regards the First Conference of States Parties as a milestone in putting the necessary mechanisms in place. It is with this thought in mind that Zambia stands here before you to join many a progressive voice wanting to see the ATT achieve its primary objective of:

- Establishing the highest possible common international standard for regulating or improving the regulation of international trade in conventional Arms.

- Preventing and eradicating illicit trade in conventional Arms and prevent their diversion.

**Mr. Chairman**

Zambia was an important progressive voice throughout the ATT negotiation process having engaged with States here in constructive dialogue which culminated into the adoption of the Treaty. Zambia has demonstrated her continuing commitment by signing the Treaty on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 less than four (04) months after it opened for signature. You may wish to note that Zambia has since started the process of having the Treaty ratified.

**Mr. Chairman**

It is Zambia's firm belief that only an effectively applied Arms Trade treaty will result in less weapons flooding the conflict zones and finding their way in the hands of those who would abuse them. Effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty means applying the articles robustly and stopping arms transfers that violates its criteria. Therefore, the key issues which the conference of the State parties will need to address are:

- a. Rules of procedure- the consensus should ensure that there is an effective majority based decision making process established for all procedural and sustainable issues and with no deferral mechanisms.
- b. ATT Secretariat- the Conference of States Parties should ensure that an independent ATT Secretariat is established with adequate resources to enable support for ATT implementation and to effectively fulfill all the functions as determined for it by the States Parties and with staff

appointments based on merit. Zambia reiterates the need for an effective Secretariat regardless of its location.

- c. Financial rules- the conference of State Parties should agree on a fundraising mechanism that is sustainable and that will allow for effective implementation and is fair for everyone especially less resourced States Parties like Zambia.

**Mr. Chairman**

My delegation has listened attentively to the figures given to us about regional ratification and signatures. It is clear that certain regions including my own region Africa is slightly behind in this area. It is because of the foregoing reason that Zambia would strongly appeal to this Conference of states Parties to adopt measures that will see strong international cooperation and capacity building in such regions so as to achieve a globally and effective Treaty.

Finally, **Mr. Chairman**, I wish to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and assistance as you undertake this onerous task of achieving a strong standard that will see the application of the provisions of the ATT consistently and robustly to prevent human suffering caused by irresponsible arms transfers.

**I THANK YOU**