

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

**BRIG. GEN. ERICK MWEWA
MILITARY ADVISOR OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

New York, NY
April 2015

MADAM PRESIDENT,

LET ME JOIN OTHER SPEAKERS WHO HAVE SPOKEN BEFORE ME, TO CONGRATULATE YOU IN YOUR ELECTION TO PRESIDE OVER THIS NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE. MY DELEGATION IS CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL DIRECT PROCEEDINGS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION AND WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR UNRESERVED SUPPORT DURING YOUR TENURE AS CHAIR. MY DELEGATION ALSO WISHES TO COMMEND THE SECRETARIAT ON THE EXCELLENT WORK DONE TOWARDS ORGANISING THE CONFERENCE. ZAMBIA REGARDS THIS EVENT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMITMENT TOWARDS ATTAINING BROADER INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

ZAMBIA ALIGNS WITH THE STATEMENTS DELIVERED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THE AFRICAN GROUP IN FURTHERANCE OF OUR WORK.

MADAM PRESIDENT, ALLOW ME NOW TO HIGHLIGHT THE POSITION OF MY COUNTRY.

ZAMBIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG AND COMMITTED ADVOCATE OF GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT. ZAMBIA REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO THE GOAL OF THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON FREE-WORLD. CONSIDERING THE DEVASTATION THAT WOULD BE VISITED UPON ALL MANKIND BY ANY USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NOTING THAT THERE IS NO COMPETENT INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE RESULTING CATASTROPHIC HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES, ZAMBIA WELCOMES RECENT GLOBAL FOCUS ON THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHICH HAS BROUGHT MUCH NEEDED ENERGY AND IMPETUS TO DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.

MADAM PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA ASSOCIATES ITSELF WITH THE PLEDGE ISSUED AT THE VIENNA CONFERENCE "TO FILL THE LEGAL GAP" FOR THE PROHIBITION AND ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WILL CONTINUE

ADVOCATING THAT THE FILLING OF THE GAP WILL REQUIRE THE NEGOTIATION OF A TREATY THAT CLEARLY PROHIBITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS BASED ON THEIR CATASTROPHIC HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES. MY GOVERNMENT FULLY ENDORSES THE FINDINGS AND OUTCOMES OF THE OSLO AND VIENNA CONFERENCE.

MADAM PRESIDENT,

WE HAVE HAD THREE PREPARATORY COMMITTEES THAT HAVE PRECEDED THIS MEETING, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO OBSERVE THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE TREATY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, BUT THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO DISARMAMENT. MADAM PRESIDENT, MORE EFFORT IS NEEDED BY ALL OF US TO ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED COMMITMENT.

MADAM PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) AND RECOGNISES THE AGENCY AS THE SOLE COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR THE VERIFICATION OF FULFILMENT OF SAFEGUARDS OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED BY STATE PARTIES UNDER THE NPT. IN THIS REGARD, ZAMBIA CONTINUES TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE IAEA STATUE AND RELEVANT COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS IN CONDUCTING VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES.

MADAM PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONES IS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN THIS REGARD, ZAMBIA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS A PRIORITY AND URGES ALL STAKE HOLDERS IN THE REGION TO IMPLEMENT IN FULL THE 1995 RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAVE STILL REMAINED VALID.

AS I CONCLUDE, ALLOW ME TO REITERATE THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY INTO THE TREATY. ZAMBIA THEREFORE CALLS UPON THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NOT SIGNED AND RATIFIED THE NPT TO DO SO, IN ORDER THAT THE TREATY ATTAINS UNIVERSALITY.

I THANKYOU.