

STATEMENT ON THE 4MSP PREPARATIONS BY THE CMC

Chairperson,

The Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) is extremely pleased that the Preparations for the 4th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) to take place in Lusaka, Zambia are in top gear and have the hallmarks of a potentially successful outcome.

Just for the avoidance of doubt, the CMC will be in Lusaka in full force partnering with Zambia and all States Parties to the CCM as we have done at previous MSPs in Laos, Lebanon and Norway.

As a Zambian and proud African at that, I would urge especially African States, and more broadly, all States that are still outside the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) to take advantage of the 4MSP to either ratify or accede to the CCM. This would be the best contribution to the successful outcome of the 4MSP whose theme is built around this endeavour. This is Africa's time, let us Africans make it count!

Chairperson,

Zambia has always been a leader in the Oslo Process and this hosting of the 4MSP is ample demonstration of this. It therefore behooves all States Parties to join hands in ensuring that they play their part in helping to bridge the remaining logistical and financial gap to ensure that 4MSP is hitch-free for the good of one and all.

As a son of the soil, I would be failing in my duties if I did not join the Zambian delegation to positively urge you to consider in your plans to come a few days earlier or stay a few days after the 4MSP to sample Zambia's rich natural endowments. A visit to Zambia would be

incomplete without a visit to the Mosi O Tunya, which means in the local language “The Smoke that Thunders” otherwise known as the Mighty Victoria Falls, a curtain of 500 cubic Meters of water, tumbling down up to 111 meters into a gorge, creating a spectacle that defies description and no doubt makes Angelic beings gaze in wonder at a scene so heavenly as they run errands of mercies upon the earth.

The courageous and young at heart will have ample opportunities for Bangi jumping, kayaking, white water rafting, walking safaris, game and bird viewing and sun-gazing.

May the Smoke That Thunders, inspire all States Parties to the CCM to redouble their resolve and pace and make Zambia an important step on the wide road to world free of the menace and side-effects of Cluster munitions.

I eagerly await your arrival in Lusaka, Zambia and promise you the traditional Zambian hospitality and a once-in-a life time experience that only Zambia, the Real Africa, is capable of offering.

Mwaiseni ku Zambia!

I thank you all for your attention.