



Republic of Zambia

**INTERVENTION STATEMENT DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF
ZAMBIA BY MRS EUNICE M.T LUAMBIA - DIRECTOR - MINE
ACTION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, AT THE TWENTY FOURTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
(THE HAGUE, 25 – 29 NOVEMBER 2019)**

**Mr. Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

On behalf of the delegation of Zambia, allow me Mr. Chairman, to join other speakers before me in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Chemical Weapons. We are confident that you will be able to effectively and successfully guide our deliberations given your vast experience in multilateral diplomacy and disarmament issues. Rest assured of the Zambian delegation's full support and cooperation.

May I also thank the previous Chairperson of the Twenty-third meeting of States Parties His Excellence Mr. Yun-Young Lee of the Republic of Korea for all his dedicated efforts and the efficient manner he steered the Conference in the past year.

The Zambian delegation further wishes to extend its appreciation to the Director-General of the OPCW, H.E. Mr. Fernando Arias, and his team for his comprehensive report which gives a clear overview of the status of the Convention and the Organization and creates a good base for our discussions in the next few days.

Mr. Chairperson

The Zambian delegation associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, as well as the statement delivered on behalf of the Africa group.

Mr. Chairperson

In respect to the universalization of the Convention, towards a world free of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the OPCW needs to be commended for its resolve to ensure this unmatched record within a short time of the Convention's existence. The Zambian delegation wishes to encourage the remaining four States to join the Convention without delay or preconditions. We believe that the universality of the Convention is essential in achieving its object and purpose, as well as the attainment of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairperson

Zambia welcomes the progress which has been made by the Secretariat on the initiated activities aimed at implementing the seven objectives of the Africa Programme covering the following areas of the Convention: National implementation (Article VII), Assistance and Protection (Article X), and the peaceful use of chemistry (Article XI). My delegation reiterates the need to encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue its efforts to prioritize the strengthening of relevant regional cooperation to coordinate and ensure collaboration at the regional and sub-regional levels

with the view to enhance effectively the ownership of all capacity building activities implemented in Africa with the OPCW support.

Like many other African countries, Zambia continues to benefit from many training and mentorship programs organised by the OPCW Secretariat. In this regard, Zambia applauds the intended continuation of the Africa programme into a fifth phase for another three years and is confident that this will steer implementation of the Convention on the African continent to greater heights, as well as meet the expectations of the Africa group.

Mr. Chairperson

On National implementation, in accordance with Article VII, the Zambian delegation would like to recognise the contribution that full implementation plays to the international and regional peace and security. The use of Chemical weapons in this century is unacceptable under any circumstances and any use of it should be condemned in the strongest terms by all States Parties. It is for this reason that Zambia continues to be an ardent supporter of the Convention in spite of the fact that we are not producers, users or stockpiling Weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairperson

Regarding Assistance and Protection in accordance with Article X, Zambia remains committed to this cause and reiterates the importance that this plays in building of both international and regional capacity. During this year Zambia's National Authority, which sits in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, has responded to a number of chemical accidents in industries and it is gratifying that response time and coordination among the stakeholders to these incidents has improved. This efficiency can be attributed to the Tabletop Exercise on Chemical Emergency Response for SADC member states, organised by the OPCW Secretariat that was held in Zambia in 2018. My delegation would therefore like to encourage the Technical

Secretariat of the OPCW to continue organising such kind of training and Zambia stands ready to host any such future training. In addition, full implementation of the provisions of Article X is essential for the protection against threats of chemical weapons

Mr. Chairperson

The Zambian delegation has taken note of 2020 budget which will be presented during this session and assures you of Zambia's support. It is our hope that the budget will be approved to allow the work of the Convention to proceed undisturbed.

The Zambia delegation further pledges its full support to the joint proposal by the United States of America, The Netherlands and Canada to update Schedule 1 of the annex of the Chemical Weapons Convention on the one hand and the proposal by the Russian Federation to make new additions of some nerve agents on the other hand. The two proposals are both in full compliance with the provisions of the Convention. In addition, the contents of the two proposals are relevant to the implementation of the Convention and will no doubt assist in dealing appropriately with the new challenges that the Convention may face. To this end, it is my delegation's hope that these proposals will be adopted by Consensus.

With respect to the peaceful uses of Chemistry in accordance with Article XI, the Zambian delegation wishes to encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue to run the Fellowship programme, the programme for support for research projects and the conference support programmes, tailored to the needs of our countries.

Mr. Chairperson,

In concluding, let me reiterate Zambia's commitment to the spirit and letter of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Zambian delegation

looks forward to the successful consideration and conclusion of the programme of work for the 24th session under your able leadership.

I request that this statement be taken as official and be circulated on the official OPCW website.

I thank you.