



**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR
GRACE M. MUTALE KABWE, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAMBIA TO THE OPCW TO THE 21ST
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES ON 29
NOVEMBER 2016**

Chairperson, Director General + distinguished guests
Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia would like to congratulate Ambassador Dr. Christoph Israng of Germany on his chairmanship of the Twenty First Session of the Conference of States Parties and resounds the confidence of the African Group in your able leadership to steer the Conference to a successful conclusion. Zambia further wishes to congratulate the newly elected officials to the 21st Session of the Conference of States Parties as well as Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for successfully coordinating the Non Aligned Movement and China.

Zambia further commends the outgoing chair of the 20th Session H.E. Ambassador Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolin of Mexico for his dedication during the 20th Session. Zambia also congratulates the Director General H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his informative and comprehensive report and commitment to universalization and implementation of the CWC as well as fulfilling the mandate of the OPCW.

Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia stands by the statement of the African Group and associates with the statement of the NAM CWC and China.

Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia wishes to convey her gratitude for efforts made in achieving the actualization and implementation of the objectives and tenets of

the Chemical Weapons Convention on the African continent. Like many Africa Member States, Zambia continues to benefit from the training and mentorship programmes organized and provided by OPCW. In this regard, Zambia applauds the intended continuation of the Africa Programme into a fourth phase for another three years and is confident that the continuation will steer implementation of the Convention on the African continent to even greater heights as well as meet the expectations of the African Group.

Zambia further reiterates the paramount importance of upholding the principles of the CWC in order for the OPCW to fulfill its mandate and wishes to support calls for all parties using toxic chemicals to desist from doing so and for all those responsible for the use of toxic chemicals in the Syrian Arab Republic be held accountable.

Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia remains committed to the cause of the OPCW and ensuring that the OPCW objectives are realized and as such already has in place the relevant legislation therefore, and is currently at the implementation stage. However, implementation has been hampered by a number of challenges such as insufficient awareness and understanding of the invaluable importance of the Convention and the OPCW to include education and outreach programmes and inadequate capacity building programmes for promoting the CWC activities at all levels, among others. In a bid to actualize implementation of the legislation, Zambia is currently working on developing an implementation action plan by March 2017, which I believe with the indulgence and help of the Technical Secretariat, will be a great success.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official statement of the 21st Session of the Conference of States Parties and that it be published on the OPCW website.