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STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY GRACE M. MUTALE
KABWE, AMBASSADOR OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE OPCW, DELIVERED AT THE
THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES OF
THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
THE HAGUE: 8 - 19 APRIL, 2013

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Lusaka

April, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Honourable Ministers present,

H.E Mr. Ahmet Uzumcu, Director General of the OPCW,

***Excellencies, Ambassadors and Representatives of
International Organizations present***

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great honour and privilege to have this opportunity to address this Third Review Conference.

My delegation wishes to commend you, Mr. Chairman, for the manner in which you are conducting the affairs of this Conference and we pledge our full support for a successful outcome of our deliberations.

I also want to thank the OPCW Director General, H.E. UZUMCU, for his informative reports which form a good basis for our discussions and follow-up actions.

I wish to align my statement to the statements given by the distinguished Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement and China and the Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of the Republic of Zambia recognizes the importance that the achievement of the objectives set out in the Chemical Weapons Convention will contribute to the attainment of one of the key Global Development Goals of peace and security, in this case to secure a prosperous world through the complete disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. My Government, therefore, remains fully committed to the implementation of Convention.

This Review Conference provides us with yet another opportunity to assess the progress we have made 15 years after the adoption of the Chemical Weapons Convention and establishment of the OPCW, which is mandated to ensure full implementation of provisions of the Convention.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to share some of our experiences in Zambia,

Zambia became a signatory State to the Chemical Weapons Convention on 13th January 1993 and subsequently ratified it on 9th February 2001. By doing so, Zambia joined many other nations in the global effort towards the prohibition of chemical weapons. Chemical Weapons are of great concern for the international community, as they are weapons of mass destruction, which can also fall in the hands of terrorists.

In compliance with the requirement for States Parties to domesticate the Convention, Zambia enacted the

Parliamentary Act No. 2 of 2007, which prohibits the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons other than peaceful use. This Act provided the legal framework for the establishment of the Zambia National Authority on the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Authority acts as a focal point between Zambia and the OPCW, as well as between the country and other States Parties.

The Government has also initiated the development of specific legislation as a measure aimed at further strengthening the banning of the production, stockpiling and illegal use of chemical weapons in Zambia. Some of the provisions in the legislation include prohibitions and penal sanctions for non-State actors, such as:

- ensuring the collection of declarable data, as provided for under Article VI(2) of the CWC (industry- and trade-related data);
- ensuring the control of dual-use chemicals and relevant facilities as well as facilitating international inspections; and
- assigning competences and creating coordination mechanisms on the national level.

Mr. Chairman,

This conference is being held at the best timing, nearly sixteen (16) years after inception of the CWC. This is because the issue of chemical weapons has become one of the issues attracting great attention of the international community, in particular as a result of the increasing pace

in the scientific and technological developments in chemistry, which is the scope of this conference.

In addition, mindful of the threat from non-state actors and of terrorism in general, Zambia would rely on the work of OPCW and its membership in promoting chemical safety and security against the hostile use of toxic chemicals or preventing chemical accidents.

Another important work of the OPCW is to strengthen advocacy objective of preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons by raising the level of awareness about the ethical norms of the Convention especially amongst scientists, engineers and academics. In our view, this important aspect should constitute one of OPCW's future priorities in terms of strengthening its outreach activities in contributing to education and understanding of Convention.

Zambia also believes that a strengthened OPCW through the complete universalization of the Convention is important because the Convention imposes more stringent control of chemical materials and enables the OPCW to monitor chemical weapons-related activities in all member States. In our view, there cannot be any guarantees unless all countries have joined the CWC and are therefore legally bound to respect its prohibitions.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me reiterate Zambia's commitment to a complete chemical disarmament, non-proliferation and a world free from chemical weapons.

I request that this statement be treated as official document of this Conference.

I wish this Conference my best wishes of success.

I thank you all for your kind attention.