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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, HONOURABLE PROFESSOR
FASHION PHIRI, MP AT THE 2nd SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE
OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

(2ND REVIEW CONFERENCE)

7TH - 18TH APRIL 2008, THE HAGUE

MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

The delegation of Zambia wishes to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Second Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Your election is a demonstration of your excellent leadership and diplomatic skills. My delegation will give you full support.

On behalf of my delegation, I also wish to thank Ambassador Lynn Parker of the United Kingdom for laying the foundation of the Second Review conference.

The Zambian delegation associates itself with the statements read by the distinguished representative of the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the African Group and the Cuban representative on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to address this Conference that brings together, States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for the splendid arrangements that will indeed ensure that this Conference comes to a successful

conclusion. I would further like to thank the Government and people of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the warm hospitality accorded to my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

The 29th of April 2007 marked the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. This indeed was a significant occasion in that Member States were able to take stock of what has been done so far and re-emphasise the fact that to date, the Convention is still the most comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation treaty ever to be implemented. It is also the first and only multilateral disarmament agreement to mandate that the world be freed of the scourge of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) within an agreed timeframe, which, in this case, is by the year 2012.

It is very gratifying to note that, within a period of ten years, 183 countries have voluntarily given up the option of developing, producing, stockpiling and using chemical weapons, rendering the OPCW the fastest growing international disarmament organisation in history. Adherence to the Convention demonstrates the resolve of the international community to general and complete disarmament. My Government regards this aspect as strategic as it gives non-possessor States Parties, like Zambia, a great opportunity to foster international cooperation in the peaceful use of chemistry and the fight against international terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

I am happy to report that the Zambian Government, in its continued efforts to adhere to the Convention, in 2007 successfully domesticated the Convention by enacting a law in line with Article VII of the Convention. Further, the assembly may wish to know that Zambia also enacted a comprehensive local legislation aimed at combating international terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Following the enactment of the local legislation, one of the activities the Government of the Republic of Zambia embarked on was the hosting of a workshop for Customs officials in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region in July 2007. The workshop was aimed at imparting knowledge on improving the ability to track transfers of chemicals listed in the three (3) schedules of the Convention. The workshop also explored the best practices with regard to the technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Convention.

The workshop was very well attended by customs officials in the region. It provided an opportunity for them to gain a deeper understanding on their handling of scheduled chemicals which has a practical impact on the implementation of the Convention's transfers regime as reflected in Article 6 of the Convention. Further, the workshop provided an insight on how customs officials could play a

key role in gradually eliminating discrepancies between the quantities of scheduled chemicals declared by importing and exporting States Parties in respect of the same transfers.

During this workshop, it was resolved that there was need to interlink border points within the SADC region in order to access data on chemical export and import inventories. The workshop also brought to the fore some challenges that need to be addressed including but not limited to:

- i. Capacity building in other regulatory authorities involved in the control of chemicals in Zambia;
- ii. Infrastructure development in management of data on ~~input~~ ^{import} and export of chemicals.

I therefore wish to appeal to OPCW members that are in a position to assist to consider coming to our aid.

Mr. Chairman,

The Zambian Government appreciates the efforts that the OPCW Secretariat has and continues to make towards capacity building vis-à-vis the various aspects of the Convention and its implementation. Some of our Zambian officials have benefited from these programmes that have been conducted both at home and abroad.

In conclusion, I would like to express the Zambian Government's commitment towards the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. My delegation is optimistic that as we review the

operation of the Convention, we shall be looking at ways through which the Convention could contribute to the enhancement of economic as well as technological development in the chemical industries. This will indeed demonstrate our resolve to envision a future for the Convention that does not only ensure a chemical weapon-free world but also one that assures mankind of an enhanced, healthier livelihood through the peaceful use of chemistry.

I thank you.