Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. From the onset, allow me, on behalf of the Zambian government and indeed on my own behalf, to assure you of our cooperation to your leadership as you discharge you mandate of this meeting. We have every trust that you will take us through successfully during the next two days' deliberations for fruitful outcome. Our gratitude also goes to the outgoing President, the Coordinators and the CCW Implementation Support Unit, for the commendable job towards the preparation of this meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate effect (CCW).

We note with satisfaction the commitment and adherence of States Parties to the Convention and its Protocols. The Convention, today boasts of One Hundred and twenty-one (121) members, a result of combined efforts. However, the onus is still on all States Parties and other stakeholders to ensure that this momentum is sustained if we are to bring signatories and those states not yet part on board. Universalisation is both the foundation for the successful implementation of every treaty and contributes greatly to raising stigmatization against the norm. I therefore, wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all States Parties, Civil Society and other organizations for the successes scored. I also wish to join other delegation in congratulating those countries which have ratified or acceded to the Convention since the last meeting of States Parties.
Mr. President

Let me; however, hasten to state that, while it is evident that a lot of progress has been made in universalizing the Convention and reducing the threat of indiscriminate harm to humanity, it is still alarming to note that the number of casualties is increasing. This is owing to the increased use by some countries in war torn areas of conventional weapons. We condemn the continued use of Cluster Munitions, Mines and other related devices that put the lives of civilian populations at risk. The need to universalize has, therefore, now become urgent.

We welcome efforts towards an accelerated plan of action on universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and encourage all High Contracting Parties to seize every opportunity to promote the Convention and its protocols, especially through bilateral engagements. Zambia remains committed in this area and will continue in its engagement in ensuring adherence to the core objectives of the convention and thus wishes to endorse the Plan of Action as agreed to at the Fourth Review Conference.

Considering the humanitarian effects caused by these use of these indiscriminate weapons, it becomes a moral obligation of every peace loving state to joining these related treaties. Zambia has made every effort to be part of the international community's concern against these weapons and is thus in addition to the CCW a State Party to the Ottawa Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Biological Weapons Convention. We thus reiterate our call to other states not part to CCW and of these Conventions mentioned to do so as a moral obligation.

Mr. President

On the preparations for the Fifth Review Conference of the Convention for next year 2016, we commend the preparatory work done so far and we wish to support the proposed format for the Review Conference in accordance with past practice. We further,
wish to pledge our support to be part of progressive decisions on the planning and organization of the Fifth Review Conference hoping that the period of the Review Conference could be revisited to make it more focused and result orientated. However, we are mindful to the many issues which are dealt with within the CCW framework.

Regarding the subject of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Zambia still advocates for further discussions in corroboration with other stakeholder for better understanding of the subject before focusing on the way forward. Zambia looks forward to hearing more on the subject this afternoon, and would consider commenting should need be, although our position remains as submitted during the meeting Experts this year in April.

Mr. President

During the past three days, discussions under Protocol V and Amended Protocol II in the Meetings of High Contracting Parties and the Side events on various topics have raised interesting issues which may need, further follow up. My delegation looks forward to further discussions on the subject of Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) which have become an increasingly common feature of conflicts around the world, posing a growing threat to humanitarian organizations operating in conflict environments. They also have a devastating impact both on civilians and military operations. With the increasing incidents of conflicts world over, finding means and way of negating the use of IEDs is necessary. We also take cognisance on the need to consider the impact of Protocol V on preventing and alleviating the suffering on the civilian population caused by Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs).

Mr. President,

The 2016 Fifth Review conference affords us another opportunity to review our commitments to the CCW and its Protocols in this regard to protocol III to address the
serious harm caused by these incendiary weapons. My delegation wishes to express its concern at the ongoing harm that these weapons cause.

While my delegation condemns the use of incendiary weapons; we wish to advise that a new mandate that sets aside time to discuss the implementation and adequacy of Protocol III could be considered, including need to strengthen Protocol III. This could be through a number of actions as suggested in various fora, like adopting of an effects-based definition of incendiary weapons, and Prohibiting, at a minimum, the use of all incendiary weapons in civilian areas. Consideration could also be given to an absolute ban as the greatest to afford humanitarian benefits.

For some time now despite the shortcomings the CCW protocol on incendiary weapons has not been revisited. These shortcomings of the protocol have impeded its effectiveness, but could be strengthened help to reduce the dreadful damage that incendiary weapons inflict on civilians.

Mr. President,

The Fifth Review Conference is a well-timed and appropriate forum in which as stated before our commitments could gauged once again on a number of issues that would strengthen the CCW and its Protocols to enable us take action on the aforementioned issues. We therefore need continue with the momentum that has developed over the past five years. Mr. President, addressing humanitarian effects of these weapons is but a moral obligation for the international community and should be supported. We remain supportive to your leadership during this meeting and looking forward to tangible and focused outcome.

I thank you