Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of Zambia and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to express our gratitude to be part of this meeting. I also wish to join those delegations who have spoken before me in congratulating you on your election as president of the Ninth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effect (CCW). You can be assured of my delegations support to your leadership during this meeting.

I also wish to commend the outgoing President's leadership, the Coordinators and the CCW Implementation Support Unit, for their work towards the preparation of this meeting. In particular we are encouraged with an update on Cooperation and assistance which document gives valuable information regarding states in need and those ready to help. This is highly creditable.

Mr. President,

Zambia has always valued the importance that the CCW community attaches to Cooperation and Assistance within the realm of Protocol V and the difference it would make to improving people's lives in as far as developmental projects are concerned,
particularly reducing poverty levels once affected land is cleared, released and put to its proper agricultural use.

Mr. President,

Since 2013 when Zambia formerly participated in the CCW meetings as a State Party, we have tried to give an overview of the extent of contamination from Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs) in the six (6) Provinces of our country, which contamination is a result of the liberation wars in which freedom fighters from the neighbouring countries, who we hosted, were engaged.

We have also shared our government’s effort to clear contaminated areas, which with the help of cooperating partners in particular the Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) who conducted a survey of the suspected areas between 2005 and 2009. This survey enabled the Zambian Army to conduct clearance and as such Zambia successfully cleared the known landmines under its obligation then, ahead of schedule in 2009.

However, in the last three years, due to massive developmental projects throughout the country, which the Zambian government has embarked on, reports of discoveries of ERWs or Unexploded Ordinances have increased. Thus the problem of ERWs and other Unexploded Ordinances remain unresolved hence our call during the previous meetings, for Corporation and assistance (including necessary equipment to conduct further, surveys, capacity building for personnel in data collection, monitoring and evaluation and provision of software for collecting and managing such data) to enable us carry out a technical survey in the affected regions from where these reports have emanated.
Mr. President,

My delegation is therefore, pleased to express its appreciation to the government of the People's Republic of China who, following our request, is currently giving training in Mine Clearance and Explosive Ordinance Disposal to our Ten (10) Officers who are in China. We are confident that this capacity building will go a long way to record desirable progress. We therefore, urge other stakeholders who are in the position to provide assistance to give every support that could be feasible and within reach, while ourselves have also taken note of the comments from those states who have devoted themselves to Cooperation and Assistance.

Mr. President,

In the area of Universalization of the CCW and its protocols, my delegation places a particular emphasis on the need for total adherence to the CCW and its protocols. The year 2015 has seen an increase in the suffering of many civilians due to the use of the conventional weapons against the civilian population. The indiscriminate use of these weapons goes against the International Humanitarian Law for which the international community should raise its voice and condemn, otherwise the reducing of effects of ERWs on the civilian population will be a nightmare. In the face of escalating conflicts, Universalisation cannot be over emphasized in the CCW family and Zambia remains committed supporting full universality as an essential tool to the success and the Cornerstone of the Convention. We therefore, call on all States not yet party to the CCW to join or accede to the CCW and its protocols as soon as possible.

Zambia is however, pleased to note the 87 states Parties to Protocol V and its steady progress towards full universalization. With each new States Party; the Convention is getting nearer to achieving its goals. These successes are a result of the commitment of all stakeholders of the Convention. In view of the aforementioned Mr. President, allow
me, therefore, to take this opportunity to applaud all High Contracting Parties, United Nations, international and regional organizations, International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations of their relentless efforts in promoting universalization of Protocol V and wish to urge them to continue.

I thank you