

(Check against delivery)



**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY MS. ENCYLA TINA CHISHIBA
SINJELA, AMBASSADOR / PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA AT THE CONFERENCE ON THE
HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**Working session I “The immediate humanitarian impact of a
nuclear detonation”**

Chairpersons

Thank you for giving me the floor.

On behalf of the Zambian delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to The Royal Kingdom of Norway for her initiative to organize this conference aimed at helping States to understand the humanitarian impact of Nuclear Weapons detonation. This conference is a wake-up call for all to realise what nuclear weapons can do to human beings, the environment and the global economy. It is our belief that this conference will go a long way in averting a global disaster of a nuclear detonation whether intentional or accidental.

Allow me also to join those who have expressed their thanks to the Government of the Royal Kingdom of Norway for the warm welcome accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful City.

Oslo, occupies an important place in the global village because of its outstanding leading role in initiating very difficult but genuine ideas which have culminated into international binding instruments to the good and benefit of humanity. Zambia, has no doubt that this initiative will go a long way in ensuring that decisive and practical measure which will result in a nuclear-free world are taken.

Chairperson

The humanitarian impact of the Nuclear Weapons cannot be overemphasised. Examples of people who have been affected and continue to suffer long term health problems abound and we are witnesses to the catastrophic impact of nuclear detonation. The environmental degradation and the resultant loss in agricultural productivity have led to a loss of livelihoods and land of the affected areas and the evidence is there for all to see.

It is regrettable that despite other categories of weapons of mass destruction and those causing indiscriminate harm being prohibited, Nuclear Weapons which are perhaps the most destructive of weapons of mass destruction and most likely to cause indiscriminate harm to both human beings and the environment are not yet subject to similar prohibition agreement. Sadly, we note an increase in the number of countries owning these weapons with prospects of others joining their ranks.

There is need for concerted effort by all peace-loving countries to ensure that there is no more production, stockpiling or use of nuclear weapons. This conference marks the beginning of a journey to a nuclear free world. It is in this regard that Zambia joins those who are calling for a complete and total ban to nuclear weapons and to the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Convention aimed at compelling those who have developed these weapons and those who are planning to build, stockpile or use these weapons to get rid of them.

Together we can ensure a peaceful, nuclear free world for future generations.

I thank you