



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

STATEMENT

BY

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DURING THE FIRST COMMITTEE

**THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS**

AT THE

**EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OCTOBER 2025

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Zambia welcomes the opportunity to address the Committee under this agenda item.

We align ourselves with the statements delivered by the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement

Mr. Chair,

Conventional weapons remain a significant source of insecurity, particularly in regions vulnerable to armed conflict, organized crime, and underdevelopment. The unregulated and illicit flow of small arms and light weapons (SALW) continues to fuel violence, undermine peace processes, erode state authority, and impede socio-economic development. The destabilizing impact of conventional weapons, especially anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war, threatens human security and hinders recovery efforts in conflict-affected regions.

Zambia, therefore, underscores the importance of robust and well-resourced Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programmes as essential to the peace continuum. DDR is not only a post-conflict requirement but also a preventive tool against relapse into violence. Effective disarmament of ex-combatants, their sustainable demobilization, and meaningful reintegration into civilian life are vital to reconciliation and nation-building.

Mr. Chair,

Zambia calls on the international community to reaffirm its commitment to multilateralism in addressing the threats posed by conventional weapons. We support the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the International Tracing Instrument. DDR must be integrated into UN peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and development mandates, with adequate

resources allocated through the Peacebuilding Fund and other mechanisms.

We welcome the African Union's "Silencing the Guns" initiative and emphasize the importance of enhanced UN-regional cooperation in arms control and DDR. We further call on regional economic communities, including SADC, to advance DDR through security sector reform, early warning systems, and cross-border arms control.

Mr. Chair,

Zambia remains party to the Arms Trade Treaty, the Mine Ban Treaty, and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, complementing our domestic frameworks for arms control. We recognize the link between DDR and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 16, and underscore the importance of gender-sensitive and youth-focused DDR approaches.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, conventional arms control is not only a disarmament matter but also central to human security, sustainable development, and the protection of human rights. We call for a renewed global commitment to prevent the uncontrolled spread of conventional weapons and to strengthen DDR as a pathway to sustaining peace and security.

I thank you.