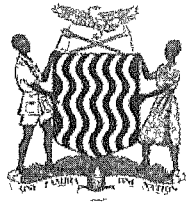


REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT BY

**DR. MWABA P. KASESE-BOTA
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

IN THE

THIRD COMMITTEE

ON

AGENDA ITEM: 28

**(a) ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN;
(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE
FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
AND OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York
16 October, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by Malawi on behalf of SADC and Cameroon on behalf of the African Group. My delegation would also like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the comprehensive reports on this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

We are yet again at the crossroads of development as the international community grapples with poor global economic performance, unprecedented high unemployment, food insecurity and rising food prices, inauspicious climatic changes, with the resultant failure of governments to provide adequate safety-net for the citizens, and rising inequalities for the women and girls.

While the international community works round the clock to enhance the attainment of the international agreements including the MDGs, and as efforts converge on the next post 2015 development agenda, my delegation wishes to remind us of the importance of advancing women empowerment for an all-inclusive and equitable growth as envisioned in the sustainable development outcome document, the future we want.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia remains committed to the promotion and protection of the rights of women, in order to reduce gender inequalities between women and men and to ensure that as a nation we progressively fulfill the rights of women. In meeting this aspiration, Zambia in the year 2000, formulated the National Gender Policy, and this policy has guided the country in the strategic design, and implementation of policies, tailored towards reducing the gender disparities and improving the status of women and girls.

Mr. Chairman,

The importance of an accelerated roadmap for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals can never be over emphasized. All the eight (8) Millennium Development Goals are inherently and uniquely dependent on inclusive and equitable advancement of women's rights as well as women's unequivocal

participation in policy decisions and strategic implementation of the development agenda. It's for this reason that Zambia has advanced women and girls' empowerment and their protection from all forms of violence and exploitation.

In 2011, the government established a fully-fledged Ministry of Gender and Child Development to further prioritize the advancement of women and strengthen the capacity to influence decision-making at the highest level on matters pertaining to gender equality and children. In the same year, Parliament enacted the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act, which is an overarching law in the provision of a protective environment for women and girls. This law prohibits all forms of violence against women and girls and provides for the comprehensive multi-sectoral dimension of care for survivors of violence and sexual assault. The Anti-Human Trafficking Act No.11 of 2008, which prohibits trafficking in persons and provides for holistic services to the victims of Human Trafficking with the aim of reintegrating them into society compliments the women empowerment agenda. Additionally, the Zambian Government continues to amend other related legislation in order to strengthen the protective environment of women and girls.

The Government pays special attention to issues of universal access to health care services, including family and maternal health. In this regard, the Zambian government has established a ministry called Community Development, Mother and Child Health, which places women at the center of community development and aims to provide a holistic and integrated health services for women and girls as close to the family as possible, as well as other social protection services.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Zambia has in the last 12 months, appointed a number of women to key strategic positions in various institutions. For example, the Chief Justice, and deputy are female, Inspector General of Police, Director General of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Drug Enforcement Commission Head and the Auditor General are all women, and not to forget the position of Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and a number of other senior government positions.

Mr. Chairman,

Even though significant achievements have been recorded in reducing gender disparities at the policy level, it is of great concern that women and girls continue to lag behind in areas of decision making, political participation, in accessing and controlling of productive resources despite constituting well over 60% of the productive work force, be it in rural or urban areas. Women also continue to be marginalized in matters of land ownership as statistics indicate that only 60% of women in Zambia are knowledgeable about procedures for land acquisition. The HIV and AIDS prevalence rate in Zambia of 16% among women with 12% for men further exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities leaving women more vulnerable to the impact of the scourge.

The continued marginalization of the female gender in society does not only deny us of a productive force, but also perpetuates the vulnerability of individuals and poverty in our societies. Zambia is, however, committed to redressing this imbalance.

Mr. Chairman,

From the Secretary General's report, it is becoming increasingly evident that gender based violence against women and girls is on the rise globally and that women continue to be exploited as they are subjected to such vices as human trafficking and used as couriers in international drug trafficking.

It is against this background, that the Zambian government has prioritized the domestication of human rights conventions, and the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The Zambian Government has conducted a CEDAW mapping to inform the legal and policy reforms necessary for domestication of the conventions on the human rights of women. Furthermore, the government has mainstreamed gender in the planning and budgeting processes for all sectors.

Mr. Chairman,

As fore stated, the Millennium Development Goals will fall short of the expected outcome as our womenfolk continue to suffer various physical, social and economic inhibitions. It is Zambia's hope that, as we look to developing the post 2015 Development Agenda, the international community will build on the UN Women's global mandate to ensure an all-encompassing gender equity programme and add impetus in kick starting the envisaged sustainable development goals in whatever form they may be. Zambia, further, calls for enhanced synergies within the UN programmes and decision making processes.

Mr. Chairman,

The Zambian delegation wishes to reiterate the government's commitment regarding the advancement of women and the fulfillment of rights of women. The Zambian Government remains grateful for the complementarity of support it continues to receive from its cooperating partners and civil society in the protection and promotion of the rights of women.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.