



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

Please check against delivery



STATEMENT BY

H.E. MR. MICHAEL CHILUFYA SATA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

AT THE 68TH SESSION OF THE

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

24TH SEPTEMBER, 2013

**YOUR EXCELLENCY, DR. JOHN WILLIAM ASHE, PRESIDENT OF THE 68TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY;**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. BAN KI-MOON, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS;**

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT;

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

AT THE OUTSET I WISH TO CONGRATULATE YOUR EXCELLENCY DR. ASHE ON YOUR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR WISDOM AND SKILL WILL BE BROUGHT TO BEAR AS YOU STEER THE ASSEMBLY THROUGH A YEAR OF PROGRESSIVE DIALOGUE AND CHALLENGING NEGOTIATIONS.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S SESSION, **"POST 2015 AGENDA, SETTING THE STAGE,"** IS TIMELY AS IT PRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF OUR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT. TO THIS END, I ASSURE YOU OF MY DELEGATION'S SUPPORT AS YOU DISCHARGE THE FUNCTION OF PRESIDING OVER THIS SESSION.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE AFRICAN CONTINENT HAS THIS YEAR ALSO CROSSED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE. IN MAY, TOGETHER WITH THE REST OF OUR CONTINENT, WE CELEBRATED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, (OAU) THE FORERUNNER TO THE AFRICAN UNION (AU).

THE AU IS A SYMBOL OF THE COLLECTIVE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF OUR RESILIENT CONTINENT. AS EXPECTED, THE OCCASION FORMED A BASIS FOR MUTUAL REFLECTION ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF A YOUNG AND VIBRANT AFRICA.

FURTHER, MY COUNTRY WILL NEXT YEAR BE COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF ITS INDEPENDENCE. WE APPROACH THAT MILESTONE, PROUD THAT ZAMBIA CONTINUES TO ENJOY POLITICAL STABILITY AND HAS EMBRACED DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE FORMED THE BASIS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE LIVES OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE.

MY COUNTRY IS ALSO HONOURED TO HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE, AND CONTINUES TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE BUILDING INITIATIVES WITHIN THE SUB-REGION AND THE CONTINENT AT LARGE. ZAMBIA WILL THEREFORE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE IDEALS FOR WHICH SHE HAS STOOD FIRM AND STANDS TO CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL EFFORTS AIMED AT UPLIFTING HUMANITY.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN ADDRESSING OUR PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS, AND PARTICULARLY FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE NATIONS, WE AS A GLOBAL COMMUNITY MEETING IN THIS AUGUST ASSEMBLY DID SET FOR OURSELVES THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS), WITH EIGHT CLEAR TARGETS WHICH RESONATE WITH OUR POPULATIONS' ASPIRATIONS.

IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS, WE WILL HAVE REACHED THE DEADLINE FOR THE MDGS AND GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE STOCK OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS MADE IN ATTAINING THE DEVELOPMENT TARGETS SET AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

WE ARE ALL CHAMPIONS OF THE MDGS, WE HAVE RUN THE RACE AND WE CONTINUE TO RUN THE RACE, THOUGH AT DIFFERENT PACES AND ON DIFFERENT TERRAINS.

WHAT REMAINS CRITICAL, THEREFORE, IS WHAT WE DO BETWEEN NOW AND THE END DATE, AS WELL AS HOW WE WILL MOVE BEYOND 2015.

AMIDST MUCH ANXIETY, THE 2013 PROGRESS REPORT FOR MY COUNTRY WAS RELEASED IN MAY. ON A POSITIVE NOTE, THE REPORT INDICATED TREMENDOUS PROGRESS MADE BY ZAMBIA ON MDGS NUMBER FOUR AND FIVE, WHICH TALK ABOUT REDUCING BY TWO-THIRDS, THE UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATES AND THREE-QUARTERS OF MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO BY 2015.

I WOULD EMPHASISE, **MR. PRESIDENT**, HERE THAT MATERNAL MORTALITY IS ALSO ROOTED IN GENDER INEQUALITY, WHICH MANIFESTS ITSELF AS POOR EDUCATION FOR GIRLS, EARLY MARRIAGE, ADOLESCENT PREGNANCIES AND LACK OF ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH. THE RESULTS, THEREFORE, TELL US THAT, WITH MORE EFFORT GENDER INEQUALITY CAN BE REDRESSED.

ZAMBIA'S MDG REPORT FURTHER INDICATES THAT WE HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV&AIDS. THE CHALLENGES ARE STILL IMMENSE AND WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THOSE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS ARE RECEIVING THE BEST OF CARE AND ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES. ALL EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO REACH ZERO INFECTION, AND ZERO DEATHS BY BUILDING ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IS EQUALLY CRITICAL FOR SUSTAINED AND ENHANCED RESPONSE.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE ZAMBIAN ECONOMY IS PRESENTLY ENJOYING MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILITY AND HAS EXPERIENCED APPRECIABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER THE RECENT PAST.

MY GOVERNMENT HOWEVER, STILL HAS THE HUGE TASK OF ENSURING THAT THE BASIC NEEDS OF ZAMBIANS ARE MET, AS POVERTY LEVELS AND UNEMPLOYMENT REMAIN A CHALLENGE.

IT IS NOT SURPRISING THEREFORE, THAT WE HAVE MADE MARGINAL PROGRESS IN REDUCING THE PREVALENCE OF HUNGER. IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE ZAMBIA'S EFFORTS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THE FIRST MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL, MY GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN AN UNPRECEDENTED PAINFUL STEP OF CURTAILING SUBSIDIES ON FUEL AND MAIZE.

THIS HAS ENABLED US RELEASE THE MUCH NEEDED RESOURCES FOR PROGRAMMES THAT ARE DELIBERATELY TARGETED AT POVERTY ALLEVIATION. WE HAVE ALSO TRANSFORMED AND REPOSITIONED THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES TO OPTIMIZE EFFICIENCIES.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) AND THE WORLD BANK ESTIMATE THAT ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA WAS EXPECTED TO BE HIGHER THAN THE GLOBAL AVERAGE, AROUND 5.5 PERCENT IN 2013 AND 6.1 PERCENT NEXT YEAR.

HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND WITHOUT FOOD SECURITY, THIS GROWTH RISKS BEING UNDERMINED BY SOCIAL EXCLUSION, PARTICULARLY FOR THE YOUTH.

FOR INSTANCE, WHILE MY GOVERNMENT RECORDED A GDP GROWTH OF 7.3 PERCENT IN 2012, WE RECOGNIZE THE FACT THAT IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT WE PUT IN PLACE SPECIFIC MEASURES THAT WILL PROMOTE EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE ARE STRONGLY ADVOCATING INVESTMENT THAT CREATES REAL AND SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR OUR PEOPLE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAKING OUR ECONOMIES MORE LABOUR ABSORBING.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN TURNING TO THE POST-2015 AGENDA, MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IS CRITICAL AND CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASIZED.

I WISH TO REITERATE THE NEED TO HAVE A SINGLE SET OF UNIVERSALLY AGREED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REFLECTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES WHICH ARE ACTIONABLE, CONCISE, AND WHOSE IMPLEMENTATION WILL RESONATE WITH THE DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC LEVELS OF MEMBER STATES.

FURTHERMORE, THE GOALS WILL NEED TO BE PRUDENTLY BALANCED AND TO EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

TO THIS EFFECT, IT IS NECESSARY TO BUILD GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS THAT ARE SUPPORTED BY COMMITMENTS TOWARDS REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, ANCHORED WITH MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY, ENHANCED LOCAL PRIVATE SECTOR AND PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT ADDRESSING ISSUES OF POVERTY IS IMPORTANT FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE FUTURE WE WANT FOR ZAMBIA.

MY COUNTRY ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE ESPECIALLY, THE WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE YOUTH THROUGH WEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION, PROVISION OF QUALITY EDUCATION, PROVISION OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE, AND INDUSTRIALIZATION, AMONG OTHERS.

IN PARTICULAR, MY GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EMPHASISE THE NEED TO MAINSTREAM CHILDREN'S ISSUES, INCLUDING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION, AND QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES, PROVIDED AT THE RIGHT TIME. SOCIAL PROTECTION AND UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF ALL CHILDREN IS CRITICAL AND SHOULD TRANSCEND THE GLOBAL DESIRE FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

IN VIEW OF THIS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE POST-2015 AGENDA TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE MOMENTUM THAT HAS BEEN ATTAINED IN THE REALIZATION OF THE MDGS IN ORDER TO ENSURE CONTINUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY.

MR. PRESIDENT,

MY ADDRESS TO THIS AUGUST ASSEMBLY WOULD BE INCOMPLETE IF I DID NOT UNDERSCORE ZAMBIA'S AND INDEED AFRICA'S DESIRE TO REALIZE A MORE DEMOCRATIC AND REPRESENTATIVE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL. AS A CONTINENT, OUR VOICE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN CLEARER.

WE CONTINUE TO CALL FOR GREATER PROGRESS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, WHOSE CONCLUSION IS LONG OVERDUE. I WISH TO REITERATE OUR POSITION AS DEFINED IN THE **EZULWINI CONSENSUS**.

THE UNITED NATIONS BOASTS OF AN ALL-INCLUSIVE MULTILATERALISM PROCESS, BUT THIS IS OBVIOUSLY LACKING WHEN IT COMES TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORGAN SHOULD BE MANIFESTED IN ITS ADAPTATION TO THE PREVAILING GLOBAL REALITIES OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND THE LEGITIMACY REALIZED THROUGH AN ALL INCLUSIVE PROCESS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN CLOSING, ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS ZAMBIA'S GRATITUDE FOR THE SUPPORT RECEIVED IN THE RECENT HOSTING OF TWO IMPORTANT UN CONFERENCES, NAMELY THE 20TH SESSION OF THE UNWTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CLUSTER MUNITIONS CONVENTION (4MSP).

I, THEREFORE, TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT AND THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE, TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THESE MEETINGS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY OF HOSTING YOU AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

I THANK YOU!