



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. MR. LAZAROUS KAPAMBWE
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF THE
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)**

AT THE

**SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE
ON WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY**

**23rd October 2007
New York**

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to address the Security Council on behalf of the Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), namely, Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe and my own country Zambia.

2. We thank the Secretary General, the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Interim Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Co-ordinator for the NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security for their introductory statements which are very instructive.

3. SADC welcomes the opportunity at this Seventh Anniversary of the landmark resolution 1325, to participate in this open debate on Women Peace and Security, under the theme "Towards a Coherent and Effective Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325". As we are aware this resolution amongst other things, calls for the incorporation of a gender perspective in negotiating and implementing peace agreements, planning refugee camps and peace keeping operations and reconstructing war-torn societies. Today's debate, therefore, provides us with an opportunity to assess the concrete and specific efforts in the implementation of the resolution at all levels and the role of the Security Council in such efforts.

4. The adoption of Resolution 1325 by the Security Council and the six subsequent presidential statements on Women, Peace and Security provide a solid framework for action in all areas of the peace process. The importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security cannot be over stated. While some progress has been made in the implementation of the resolution, greater coordinated efforts are required to achieve the goal of full implementation of the resolution. In this regard, SADC calls on the international community to render sustained support in the development of national Action plans, including financial and human resources that will eventually drive the implementation of Resolution 1325.

5. We thank the Secretary General for his report contained in document S/2007/567, on Women, Peace and Security. The report reviews and monitors the implementation of the 2005-2007 U N System wide Action Plan and identifies gaps and challenges including in the areas of funding of gender projects and insufficient institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming. Addressing these challenges is required in order to obtain the desired results. We welcome the recommendations contained in the report, which we believe will contribute to the acceleration of the implementation of resolution 1325.

6. We would like to commend the Inter Agency Net Work on Women and Gender Equality; The Inter-agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security; and the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women for their commendable work in coming up with a holistic and coherent 2008-2009 UN system wide action Plan which will serve as a result-based programme, monitoring and reporting tool. The responsibility of ensuring the full realization of this plan rests upon the international community. The Security Council should hold National Governments accountable for the implementation of the Action Plan.

Mr. President

7. The high number of victims of violence continues to be a concern for SADC. We are saddened that women continue to bear the brunt of grave violations of human rights including violence and sexual abuses. We condemn all those parties that perpetuate acts of violence and abuse on women and children. We call for the speedy investigation for all cases of violence and sexual abuses especially those committed against women and children. The culture of impunity must be stopped by, among other things, bringing to justice all the perpetrators.

Mr. President

8. SADC is encouraged with the progress on mainstreaming gender in relevant policies and programmes on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). It is necessary to recognize the needs of women and girls ex-combatants in the DDR process and ensure that their concerns are taken on board from the planning stages. We commend the work that has been done by UNICEF in reintegration projects that has led to the release of girls from the armed forces in various countries.

9. We commend the various United Nations agencies that undertook the capacity building efforts, including the development of the training models. We would, however, request that there be synergy and coherence in the various training models produced. We wish to reiterate that awareness on resolution 1325 needs to be broadened and the capacity at national levels to implement the resolution needs to be enhanced. In this endeavour we wish to underscore the importance of building capacity at the local level and in particular the capacity of the national local women groups on the ground.

Mr. President,

10. Experience has shown that participation of women in peace processes produce positive results, especially because they are the major victims of atrocities of conflict together with children. Women need to participate in decision making positions. It is imperative that women are encouraged and supported to run for offices especially in countries emerging from conflicts. In this regard we wish to commend the work undertaken by UN agencies in facilitating the promotion and effective participation of women in decision making positions.

11. In conclusion I wish to state that SADC remains committed to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325. We as the international community have an obligation to ensure that the rights of women the world over are protected and their place in all aspects of the peace process is assured. It is their equal participation and their full involvement that will contribute to the effective maintenance and promotion of sustainable peace and security.

I thank you.