



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

SPEECH BY THE

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. RUPIAH BWEZANI

BANDA,

AT THE 64TH SESSION OF THE UNITED

NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

NEW YORK, USA

YOUR EXCELLENCY DR. ALI ABDUSSALAM TREKI, PRESIDENT OF THE 64TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. BAN KI-MOON,

EXCELLENCIES

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

LET ME JOIN THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS IN CONGRATULATING YOU ON THE
ASSUMPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE 64TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND IN EXTENDING ZAMBIA'S SINCERE
APPRECIATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MIGUEL D'ESCOTO BROCKMANN, FOR
HIS ABLE LEADERSHIP DURING THE 63RD SESSION.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE THEME FOR THIS SESSION, PRESENTS US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE
THE EXISTING MULTILATERAL APPROACHES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES
ARISING FROM GLOBALISATION. THESE INCLUDE THREATS TO SOCIO-
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.
THERE IS NEED TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND RESPONSES TO
THESE CHALLENGES WHICH INCLUDE HIV/AIDS AND H1N1, TERRORISM,
CLIMATE CHANGE, NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND MORE RECENTLY, THE GLOBAL
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS.

IN THIS GLOBALISED AND INTER-DEPENDENT WORLD, NO COUNTRY, HOWEVER, WEALTHY OR POWERFUL IT IS, CAN RESOLVE ALL THESE CHALLENGES SINGLE HANDEDLY. COMMON SOLUTIONS ARE, THEREFORE, REQUIRED THROUGH A STRONG UNITED NATIONS.

MR PRESIDENT,

THIS SESSION IS TAKING PLACE AGAINST A BACKDROP OF THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS, WHICH HAS SPARED NO ONE.

IN MY OWN COUNTRY, ZAMBIA, AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, THE ECONOMIC GROWTH REGISTERED FROM 2000 TO 2007 IS NOW DECLINING AS A RESULT OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS.

WE ARE FACED WITH SERIOUS FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS, LOWER COMMODITY PRICES AND WEAK EXTERNAL AND DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR OUR PRODUCTS, HIGH INFLATION AND RISING UNEMPLOYMENT. MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES HAVE ALSO SLACKENED. SINCE COPPER ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF ZAMBIA'S EXPORTS, THE EFFECT OF THE COLLAPSE OF INTERNATIONAL COPPER PRICES FROM US\$ 8985 PER METRIC TONNE IN AUGUST 2008 TO US\$ 2902 AT THE CLOSE OF 2008, HAS RESULTED IN GREATLY REDUCED REVENUE COLLECTIONS AMONG OTHERS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA'S EXPERIENCE FROM THE RECENT GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS, IS A TIMELY REMINDER OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF OVER DEPENDENCE ON A SINGLE ECONOMIC SECTOR.

MY GOVERNMENT HAS, THEREFORE, DEVELOPED A DIVERSIFICATION PLAN TO SHIFT THE ECONOMY FROM DEPENDENCE ON COPPER. THIS IS BEING DONE THROUGH POLICY INTERVENTIONS IN THE AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND MANUFACTURING SECTORS, COUPLED WITH PROGRAMMES AIMED AT IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN ZAMBIA.

FOR THESE EFFORTS TO SUCCEED, HOWEVER, THERE MUST BE EXPEDITIOUS CONCLUSION OF WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION, DOHA ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

ZAMBIA CONSIDERS THE AID-FOR-TRADE COMPONENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AS CRITICAL, AS IT WILL DEVELOP ZAMBIA'S CAPACITY TO OVERCOME SUPPLY-SIDE CONSTRAINTS AND ENCOURAGE VALUE ADDITION TO ITS COMMODITIES.

MR. PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA'S RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF ITS INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS. WE APPRECIATE THAT OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS HAVE ALSO BEEN AFFECTED BY THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS. NONETHELESS, WE URGE THEM TO FULFIL THEIR PLEDGE OF RAISING THE CONTRIBUTION TO 0.71 PER CENT OF GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI).

THIS IS NECESSARY IF THE GLOBAL DEVELOPEMT AGENDA IS TO HELP VULNERABLE ECONOMIES SUCH AS ZAMBIA MEET MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) BY 2015.

MR. PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA BELIEVES THAT THERE IS NEED TO REFORM THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS, TO AVOID FUTURE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS. THE CHANGES WHICH MUST BE INCLUSIVE SHOULD RESPOND TO THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF ALL NATIONS, REGARDLESS OF STATUS.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE BE AN INCREASE IN THE VOICE AND POWER OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD BANK AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND. THE REFORM PROCESS SHOULD AIM TO IMPROVE PREDICTABILITY OF AID FLOWS AND EMPHASISE REFORMS WHICH PROMOTE FASTER AID DELIVERY AND LESS CONDITIONALITIES.

MR. PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA DEEPLY APPLAUDS THE LEADERSHIP THAT THE UNITED NATIONS PROVIDES IN TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AS DEMONSTRATED ONLY 2 DAYS AGO BY THE HOSTING OF A HIGH LEVEL SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE. OUR EFFORTS TO RAISE THE STANDARDS OF LIVING FOR THE WORLD'S POOR PEOPLE IN ORDER TO MEET THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS ARE BEING FRUSTRATED BY THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

THE SCIENTISTS HAVE SPOKEN. WE HAVE SEEN WITH OUR OWN EYES IN JUST ONE GENERATION, HOW MUCH EFFECT CLIMATE CHANGE HAS HAD ON OUR ENVIRONMENT. ON THE EVE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, UNPRECEDENTED FLOODS HIT THE STATE OF GEORGIA IN THIS COUNTRY AS IF TO REBUKE ANY OF US WHO STILL DOUBT THE EVIDENCE.

LET US JUST LOOK AROUND US. WE DO NOT NEED SCIENCE TO TELL US THAT DESERTS HAVE EXPANDED, THAT FORESTS HAVE DRASTICALLY SHRUNK, THAT RIVERS HAVE DRIED UP; THAT IT RAINS LESS AND LESS IN MANY PLACES AND YET SO MUCH MORE IN OTHERS. NATURE HAS LOST ITS BALANCE AND HUMANKIND HAS LOST ITS FOOTING.

IN OUR OWN SHORT LIFESPAN, IN MY OWN COUNTRY, I REMEMBER A TIME WHEN FORESTS WERE WITHIN A CHILD'S WALKING DISTANCE – TEEMING WITH PROFUSSION OF ANIMALS, BIRDS, PLANTS, INSECTS AND FRUITS. TODAY, MY GRANDCHILDREN WOULD BE LUCKY TO NAME THE INDIGENOUS FRUITS OF OUR COUNTRY ON THE FINGERS OF ONE HAND. SO MANY SPECIES OF OUR COUNTRIES' FLORA AND FAUNA HAVE BECOME EXTINCT – FOREVER LOST TO THE WORLD – IN SUCH A SHORT TIME.

OUR CHILDREN HAVE SPOKEN. OUR CITIZENS HAVE SPOKEN. IF WE GO TO COPPENHAGEN TO QUESTION THE SCIENCE YET AGAIN, OR TO MAKE MORE SPEECHES JUSTIFYING INACTION, IF WE STILL BELIEVE THAT WE CAN ONLY ACT AFTER OUR COMPETITORS ACT, THEN WE AS LEADERS WILL HAVE FAILED OUR PEOPLE AND CONSIGNED THE WORLD TO UTTER DESTRUCTION. COPPENHAGEN IS THE PRECIPICE – EITHER WE STEP BACK AND LET LIVE OR TIP OVER INTO THE ABYSS. WE MUST ACT, AND ACT NOW.

MR. PRESIDENT

REGARDING MITIGATION, ZAMBIA'S VIEW IS THAT THE "SHARED VISION" SHOULD BE BASED ON SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE. THAT, THERE MUST BE AN EQUITABLE BURDEN-SHARING MECHANISM WHICH MUST REQUIRE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO COMMIT TO REDUCING EMISSIONS TO LEGALLY-BINDING LEVELS, WHILST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TAKE ACTIONS TO ENSURE A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION FROM ENVIRONMENT DEGRADING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

MR PRESIDENT

AS THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE DRAWS NEAR, ZAMBIA EXPECTS AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL BALANCE THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS WITH DEVELOPMENT. THE COPENHAGEN AGREEMENT MUST PROVIDE INCREASED AND PREDICTABLE SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "ADAPTATION PROGRAMME" WHICH MUST BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN A BINDING LEGAL INSTRUMENT UNDER THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION.

MR. PRESIDENT

SPEAKING IN MY CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREAT LAKES REGION (ICGLR), I AM HAPPY TO REPORT TO THIS ASSEMBLY THAT THE GREAT LAKES REGION OF AFRICA IS NOW MORE STABLE AND PEACEFUL THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN IN THE LAST 15 YEARS, ALBEIT WITH CHALLENGES. THE IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) AND RWANDA AND THEIR JOINT EFFORTS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF NEGATIVE FORCES IN THE EASTERN DRC HAS OPENED UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

HOWEVER, THE REGION IS STILL FACED WITH THE THREAT POSED BY THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS AND NEGATIVE FORCES NAMELY, THE FDLR/EX-FAR/INTERAHAMWE, THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY (LRA) AND THE ALLIED DEMOCRATIC FORCES (ADF). ALTHOUGH THE RECENT JOINT MILITARY OPERATION BETWEEN DRC AND RWANDA SUCCEEDED IN DISLODGING THE FDLR ELEMENTS FROM MOST OF THEIR STRONGHOLDS, THE CONTINUED ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE FDLR REMNANTS AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION REMAINS A GREAT SOURCE OF CONCERN.

WE APPLAUD THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THROUGH MONUC IN GIVING SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF DRC IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILD MILITARY CAPACITY TO NEUTRALISE THE NEGATIVE FORCES IN EASTERN DRC. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NEEDS TO EXERT MORE AND SUSTAINED PRESSURE ON THE LEADERSHIP OF THOSE NEGATIVE FORCES LIVING WITHIN AND OUTSIDE REGION SO THAT THEY ARE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY (LRA) THAT FLED TO NORTH EAST DRC AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AFTER THE JUBA TALKS FAILED, CONTINUES TO COMMIT ATROCITIES AGAINST THE INNOCENT CIVILIAN POPULATION. THE GREAT LAKES MECHANISMS ALLOWED FOR A JOINT MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST THE LRA WHICH ACHIEVED SOME PROGRESS IN DISLODGING LEVEL FORCES, THE CHALLENGES NOTWITHSTANDING.

THERE IS NEED FOR SUSTAINED MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE TO BRING JOSEPH KONY BACK TO THE NEGOTIATION TABLE AND ALSO FOR MORE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROTECT THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND AT THE SAME TIME TO PUT AN END TO THE ATROCITIES AND BRUTALITY COMMITTED WITH IMPUNITY BY THE LRA.

THE GREAT LAKES REGION IS ORGANISING A ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE IN BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI FROM 5 TO 6 NOVEMBER, 2009 AT WHICH WE EXPECT RENEWED SUPPORT FROM THE GROUP OF FRIENDS AS WELL AS OTHER PARTNERS TO FINANCE THE GREAT LAKES PACT ON SECURITY, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION.

MR. PRESIDENT

PRIOR TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC DOWN TURN, ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS ON COURSE TO MEET ALL, BUT ONE OF THE MDGS, NAMELY ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. HOWEVER, THE EFFECT OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS, COUPLED WITH THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, THREATEN THE PROSPECTS OF MEETING THE MDGS ON POVERTY, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE UNITED NATIONS REMAINS THE CENTRAL AND PRINCIPAL ORGAN FOR COORDINATING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PEACE, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE RULE OF LAW. TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT THERE IS NEED TO REFORM THE UNITED NATIONS. ZAMBIA BELIEVES THAT THE UN REFORMS WILL NOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT MEANINGFUL REFORM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

REFORM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO MAKE IT MORE REPRESENTATIVE, DEMOCRATIC AND ACCOUNTABLE TO ALL MEMBER STATES, IRRESPECTIVE OF STATUS, IS ESSENTIAL FOR ITS DECISIONS TO BE ACCEPTABLE BY THE WHOLE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE SECURITY COUNCIL MUST ADAPT TO THE REALITIES OF THE NEW GEO-POLITICAL SITUATION THAT CHARACTERISE THE WORLD.

GIVEN THAT AFRICA CONSTITUTES THE SECOND LARGEST BLOC OF UN MEMBERSHIP, PROPOSALS TO REFORM THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD HEED AFRICA'S CALL FOR TWO PERMANENT SEATS WITH VETO POWERS AND TWO ADDITIONAL NON-PERMANENT SEATS. THIS WILL ADDRESS THE HISTORICAL INJUSTICE AGAINST AFRICA, WHILE RESPONDING TO THE NEED TO DEMOCRATIZE THE SECURITY COUNCIL. EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN THIS REGARD, WILL BE THE NEED TO REFORM THE WORKING METHODS OF THIS IMPORTANT UN BODY.

MR. PRESIDENT

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES ARE AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN ANY COUNTRY. I WISH TO INFORM THIS ASSEMBLY THAT, SINCE ZAMBIA WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN 2006, IT HAS CONTINUED TO ADVOCATE FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

ZAMBIA, IN MAY 2008, EXTENDED AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL MANDATE HOLDERS ON SPECIAL AREAS OF FOCUS, RELATING TO ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, TO VISIT AND EVALUATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH ZAMBIA OBSERVES ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE VARIOUS UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS. WE URGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW SUIT.

MR. PRESIDENT,

EVEN IN THE POST COLD WAR ERA, NUCLEAR ARMS POSE A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND THE VERY EXISTENCE OF MANKIND. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT ZAMBIA STANDS FOR GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL, NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, IN A TIME-BOUND MANNER. THE DEMAND OF THE TIME IS THAT WE COMPETE FOR PEACE NOT WAR, FOR DEVELOPMENT, NOT ARMAMENTS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE UNITED NATIONS CONTINUES TO REMAIN THE ONLY MULTILATERAL INSTITUTION CAPABLE OF ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF OUR "ONE WORLD". THIS SESSION'S THEME ATTESTS TO THIS FACT. THE WORLD LOOKS UP TO THIS BODY TO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS ON ALL GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN AN INCLUSIVE MANNER OFFERING THE ONLY PRACTICAL WAY TO ENSURE MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

MR. PRESIDENT

ALLOW ME TO CONCLUDE BY QUOTING JONATHAN RAUCH IN THE JANUARY, 2001 ISSUE OF ATLANTIC MONTHLY IN HIS ARTICLE, "THE NEW OLD ECONOMY: OIL COMPUTERS AND THE REINVENTION OF THE EARTH" AS QUOTED BY R.A. BISSON AND JAY LEHR IN THE PREFACE OF THEIR BOOK "MODERN GROUND WATER EXPLORATION" .

IN THIS ARTICLE WHICH LOOKED AT FUTURE OIL SUPPLY, JONATHAN RAUCH PREDICTS THAT DEMAND FOR OIL WILL PETER OUT WELL BEFORE SUPPLY RUNS OUT BECAUSE HE ARGUES, SOMETHING CHEAPER AND CLEANER WILL COME ALONG.

HE CONCLUDES AND I QUOTE "KNOWLEDGE, NOT PETROLEUM IS BECOMING THE CRITICAL RESOURCE IN THE OIL BUSINESS; AND THOUGH THE SUPPLY OF OIL IS FIXED, THE SUPPLY OF KNOWLEDGE IS BOUNDLESS". THUS HUMAN INGENUITY HOLDS THE SECRET TO RESOLVING PROBLEMS CONFRONTING MANKIND. AND SO IT IS WITH ALL THE ISSUES CONFRONTING MANKIND AND THIS UNITED NATIONS OF OURS TODAY.

THE RESOLUTION OF OUR PROBLEMS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS, PEACE AND SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY, DEPENDS ON HUMAN INGENUITY.

THE UNITED NATIONS MUST, THEREFORE, FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANTLY WORK TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE INGENUITY CAN INDEED FLOURISH; THAT IS A PEACEFUL WORLD WHERE ALL FEEL THEY BELONG AND ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY.

I THANK YOU.
