



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

HON. DR. KALOMBO T. MWANSA, M.P.
SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE

AT

THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

New York
27 September, 2010

Your Excellency, Mr. Joseph Deiss, President of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly;

Your Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government;

Distinguished Representatives and Heads of Delegations;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mr. President;

I stand before this august Assembly, as an envoy of His Excellency Mr. Rupiah Bwezani Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia.

I congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and assure you of Zambia's full cooperation and support.

I would also like to commend your predecessor, His Excellency, Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the 64th Session for the able manner in which he presided over the Session and equally, to thank the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his useful report on the work of the organization.

Zambia wishes to align herself with the statement delivered by H.E. Ngwazi Prof. Mbingu Wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi and current Chairperson of the African Union.

Mr. President,

This Session is taking place amidst global challenges such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation, international terrorism, piracy, HIV/AIDS, extreme poverty and hunger, among many others. It is an occasion for all member states to collectively engage in dialogue aimed at finding solutions to the challenges that our countries are facing in order to contribute to socio-economic development and the wellbeing of our people.

This year's theme is appropriate as it gives us the opportunity to reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in global governance. The role of the United Nations is felt in areas such as peace-keeping and security, human rights, promotion of gender equality and the fight for social justice and equality. However, emerging global challenges like the recent financial and economic crisis, also call for a greater role by the United Nations in global economic governance. It is in this regard, that our government would like to see a strengthening and enhancing of capacity in the United Nations to enable it deal with some of these challenges.

Mr. President,

Allow me to express Zambia's gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for organising important high level meetings that preceded the general debate. The MDGs Review

Summit provided an opportunity for the international community to take stock of the existing gaps and challenges faced in the attainment of the MDGs. At that meeting, I elaborated the progress Zambia has made and the challenges we continue to face in our efforts to attain the MDGs. In spite of the strides made at improving the macro-economic environment and putting in place development frameworks, the incidence of poverty in my country remains high partly, because our efforts alone are not enough. I wish, therefore, to reiterate calls to the international cooperating partners to honour all their commitments to ensure that the 2015 targets are realised.

Mr. President,

Let me also add that some of the measures that the Zambian government has adopted to address the issue of hunger and poverty include devising agricultural sector policies that enable small holder farming households improve their productivity. It is in this regard, that this year Zambia recorded a bumper harvest of our main food crop, maize. This will ensure food security and increased incomes for small holder farmers who constitute the majority of the farming community.

We are, however, also mindful of the fact that climate change as evidenced by persistent periods of droughts and floods in our countries, poses one of the most serious threats to the agricultural sector and to overall food production. While as a government we are doing everything possible such as investing in agricultural research and irrigation methods, the debate on climate change should not lose sight of the need to assist developing countries including Zambia, in building capacities for adaptation in order to mitigate the negative impact on the agricultural sector. Without these, poverty and hunger will persist in my country.

Mr. President,

Zambia shares the concerns of the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the current global resource loss and eco-systems degradation. It is important that mankind reverses the on going trends of natural resource loss and ecosystem degradation as a commitment to protect biodiversity. This will only be achieved if all stakeholders step up their efforts and meet the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the positive developments that have occurred in the past one year in the area of arms control and disarmament. The Security Council's convening of a summit to address disarmament issues; the Secretary General's launch of a five-point nuclear disarmament proposal; the entry into force of treaties establishing nuclear-weapon free zones in central Asia and Africa and, the convening of a summit in Washington to discuss nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation among others, must be commended. We hope that these efforts and the momentum generated will be sustained and lead to the resolution of all outstanding issues in the area of disarmament.

Zambia, however, continues to face difficulties in controlling the inflow of small arms and light weapons (SALW). The illicit trade in SALW threatens security and retards social and economic

development in our country. Zambia, therefore, calls for the establishment of a strong and legally binding international instrument on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). It is in this regard, that we strongly support the convening of the United Nations Conference in 2012 to establish legally binding common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms with specific measures against defaulters.

Mr. President,

On the reform of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, Zambia reaffirms its support for the African position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration to be granted among others, not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges including the right of veto and, an additional two non-permanent seats. Africa is the only continent without permanent seats and yet it has the second largest membership of the United Nations. Granting Africa permanent seats will redress this historical injustice.

Mr. President,

The government of Zambia recognises the important role that women play in the attainment of development. Furthermore, we recognise that the empowerment of women and their inclusion in the decision making process has enhanced their role in development. It is for this reason, that Zambia has integrated women in all sectors of society in decision-making positions. We are committed to doing even more.

In this regard, our government welcomes the establishment of the UN Women, the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the appointment of Ms Michelle Bachelet, the former President of Chile, to head the Unit. It is our hope that the new entity will have a strong and effective presence at the country level and help member states implement standards, and provide them with the much needed technical and financial support required to achieve women empowerment, equality and equity.

Mr. President,

As you are aware, Zambia has been hosting refugees prior to and, since its independence in 1964 and is party to all refugee conventions. My country is among the first on the African continent to host a refugee camp. Zambia is committed to hosting refugees and our experience has demonstrated that voluntary repatriation is both a desirable and durable solution. However, as an under resourced and least developed country, the hosting of refugees is a major challenge for us. We, therefore, call upon the international community to provide financial assistance to enable us discharge this responsibility through the provision of minimum standards of care.

In addition to the question of refugees, the issue of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) which has continued to increase worldwide, especially in Africa, equally calls for our attention. The adoption by the African Union last year, of the Convention on the Protection of IDPs is an important land mark which requires the support of the international community at large.

Mr. President,

The sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe continue to cause great suffering to the people of that country and to the southern Africa sub-region as a whole. Similarly, the embargo that the United States has imposed on Cuba, and which the UN has rejected through numerous General Assembly resolutions, has caused untold hardship to the people of Cuba. Zambia calls upon this august body to ensure that the sanctions on Zimbabwe and the US embargo on Cuba are lifted.

Mr. President,

In an effort to consolidate democratic governance, Zambia is in the process of enacting a new Constitution. The National Constitutional Conference (NCC) which was established to oversee this process concluded its work and submitted a draft constitution which awaits to be tabled before Parliament.

As you may be aware, Zambia will hold Presidential and General Elections in 2011. As in the past, international election observers, including those from the United Nations are welcome.

Mr. President,

As we re-affirm the role of the UN in global governance, let us not be complacent in the face of great suffering and hardship in our world. Let that be the force that drives us to action, where all nations will work together in meeting the goals and aspirations of our people.

I Thank you Mr. President!