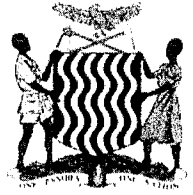


REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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

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STATEMENT

BY

**HON. BRADFORD MACHILA, MP, MINISTER OF LANDS
ZAMBIA DELEGATION TO THE 63RD REGULAR SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

**THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON
AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

New York

22nd September 2008

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

It is gratifying to note that this year's Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly will address the plight of Africa by convening this High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs. It is indeed an opportune time to look at Africa's development concerns, the state of implementation of the various commitments, challenges and the way forward.

All the statements that have been made so far have recognised the extent of poverty prevailing on our continent. The majority of our people live in rural areas and are the worst affected in terms of poverty.

In the case of Zambia, another dimension of poverty has manifested itself in the form of rapid urbanisation through rural-urban migration. This has brought with it the serious challenges of urban unplanned settlements, resulting in poor housing infrastructure as well as poor water and sanitation facilities, and diseases such as diarrhoea which have led to high infant mortality rates.

In her quest to reduce poverty, Zambia has articulated its long term development goals in the National Vision 2030 which envisages that by 2030, the country will be a middle-income

industrialised nation that provides opportunities for improving the well being of our people, embodying values of social-economic justice, underpinned by the principles of: (i) gender responsive sustainable development; (ii) democracy; (iii) respect for human rights; (iv) good traditional and family values; (v) positive attitude towards work; (vi) peaceful coexistence and; (vii) private-public partnerships.

Much as the country has a focussed Vision, the issue of rising world food and oil prices is of major concern to Zambia. The current global hunger threat coupled with high incidences of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, and other infectious diseases has been exacerbated by the rising incidences of poverty, inadequate safe water supply and sanitation.

Mr. Chairman,

I recognise that the recent improved performance in commodity prices has contributed positively to the growth of most of the African countries including my own country, Zambia, which has been growing at an average of 5.5% per annum over the past three years. This positive growth is yet to be translated into poverty reduction and improved socio-economic welfare for the majority of the population as poverty levels remain high mainly because of low investments in key sectors that employ majority of the inhabitants. What is even

worse is that, just as we were beginning to see the silver lining as a result of these positive developments, the recent increases in world food and oil prices now threaten to reverse all these gains.

In this regard, it is not surprising that as we reach the mid-point of achieving the MDGs, most African countries are off target and will not be able to achieve the set goals by 2015 without stepping up efforts at both national and international levels such as the implementation of most commitments under the internationally agreed Development Goals and Targets.

Although commitments have been made by cooperating partners at the international level to improve investment flows, market conditions, Official Development Assistance Flows and Finance for Development for African countries, the implementation of these commitments has not been fully met. In addition, the stalled negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda and the break down of talks in July are also a source of concern. Zambia, like many other developing countries, is looking forward to the completion of the negotiations at the earliest possible time.

Mr. Chairman,

It is in this regard that Zambia is calling upon cooperating partners and the international community at large to provide support to its quest for development by assisting the country to address the following challenges:

- The small share in FDI inflows;
- Inadequate resources for research and development;
- Vulnerability to climate change;
- Inadequate and poor infrastructure
- Limited financial and human resources availability for undertaking huge investment programmes such as infrastructure development.

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

We are seeking this assistance not as a matter of charity but because it is in the interest of all of us – Africa and the rest of the world, including the industrialised countries. A developed Africa will be a positive force that will enhance world economic growth. A prosperous Africa will be a peaceful Africa, an Africa whose enormous wealth and potential will be put to the benefit of all the Citizens of the World.

I thank you.