



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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Statement by Honourable Emerine Kabanshi, MP Deputy Minister of Gender and Child Development

**Statement delivered During the General Debate on the Implementation of the Beijing
Platform for Action and Outcome of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General
Assembly**

2nd March 2012

Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.

My delegation wishes to congratulate you on your election and the manner in which you are conducting the affairs of this Session. My delegation, therefore, pledges its full support to you and your bureau in the discharge of your duties.

Chairperson,

My Government remains committed to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcome of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly as evidenced by the new administration's resolve to domesticate international instruments on gender to which we are party. I am particularly pleased to announce that my Government has not only prioritized the domestication of regional and international instruments on gender to which it is party, but has already initiated practical measures to facilitate the domestication of the provisions of the CEDAW because we view this instrument as a comprehensive bill of rights for women.

Government has, in this regard, conducted a CEDAW Mapping Exercise which has identified the various provisions that have been incorporated into national legislation and those that have not. This process has enabled Government to develop a clear road map for systematically domesticating the provisions of the CEDAW to facilitate its full implementation. It is our strong belief that once this instrument is domesticated, it will have a multiplier effect on the advancement of women in Zambia.

Chairperson,

Another issue that continues to pose a threat to the advancement of women in Zambia is the continued occurrence of gender-based violence. Zambia has responded to this scourge by enacting the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act of 2011 which provides for the protection and support for survivors of gender-based violence. The Act also provides for the establishment of shelters for survivors for GBV as a primary responsibility of government. While we acknowledge that the enactment of the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act is a milestone in our fight to eliminate

gender based violence, we are fully cognisant of the need to provide adequate resource for its implementation. Consequently, my government has requested the United Nations System in line with the One UN delivery principle, to work with Government to mobilize resources for its implementation. This is borne from the realization that for a long time, Governments, Cooperating Partners and Civil Society Organizations have spent huge amounts of money to develop policies and implementation plans without setting aside resources for implementation. My Government has moved away from this approach and we want to urge our cooperating partners to support Zambia's efforts by putting resource into implementation - this is what will yield the results that we so much desire.

Chairperson,

Government also recognises the importance of women's economic empowerment as a catalyst for facilitating women's advancement. We recognise that despite the potential that women have to contribute to socio-economic development, they are largely not able to access financial resource and other productive resources.

In order to facilitate the economic empowerment of rural women, government has established the Citizens Economic Empowerment Fund under the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission. The funds provide for affirmative action in favour of women by allocating 30 percent of the resources to women entrepreneurs. In addition to this Fund, Government has, in the 2012 financial year provided \$2 million dollars and 2.3 million dollars to the Gender and Child Development Division and Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health respectively targeting rural women. The purpose of these funds is to facilitate access to start-up capital; procure labour saving technologies and provide training to women entrepreneurs in business entrepreneurship.

Chairperson,

Our desire to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action has not been without challenges. The major challenges remain that of the slow pace of institutionalising and accountability for gender mainstreaming. However, together with our stakeholders, we will take on these challenges head on. I thank you!