

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

Please check against delivery

SIXTY- NINETH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. DR. MWABA P. KASESE- BOTA (MRS)
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS**

AGENDA ITEM 82

THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

*9 October, 2014
New York, NY*

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for affording us the floor. Zambia wishes to align itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of South Africa on behalf of the African Group and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening and Coordinating United Nations Rule of Law Activities contained in document A/69/181. It is pleasing to note that the United Nations is providing constitutional support to more than 15 countries through civic education and an inclusive drafting process.

Mr. Chairman,

Since its inception in 1954, the United Nations has been influential in supporting the rule of law across the world.

It has helped in creating a forum where the universal standards for a basic functioning legal system have been successfully articulated.

Whilst some of the developing countries have adopted laws emanating from the colonial period, it is true that most of the resultant justice systems are in harmony with general tenets of the rule of law.

Amongst them is the non-discriminatory character of law, or the right to a fair hearing. Today, the concept has evolved further to require that in the application of penal rules towards offenders, there must not be any derogation of their basic human dignity. In this regard, the prohibition of the use of torture as means of extracting a confession is a principle that enjoys universal acceptance.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia strongly supports adherence to the rule of law at both national and international levels. At the national level, Zambia has implemented an access to Justice Programme by, inter alia, construction of legal aid offices in all the provincial centers to ensure legal aid service to the under privileged in society. The programme also ensures that accused person's rights to a fair trial and adequate representations are met, there by promoting equality before the law. Connected to this is the recent establishment of the Small Claims Court which promotes the rule of law by providing an avenue for redress and a quick dispensation of justice, as claimants need not to hire legal representation, but can instead pursue their claims in person.

In an effort to combat domestic violence and promote observance of human rights, the Zambian Government in 2011 enacted the Anti Gender- based Violence Act.

Furthermore, Zambia has established oversight institutions such as the Human Rights Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Judicial Complaints Authority and the Police Public Complaints Authority. These institutions ensure the accountability of public, judicial and law enforcement officers and promote fairness in the application of the law.

To further democratise, Zambia in 2011 embarked on the fight against corruption and has in this regard, adopted a policy of zero-tolerance to corruption.

Mr. Chairman,

At international level, Zambia has continued to participate in the promotion of the rule of law by contributing troops and other personnel to conflict and post – conflict situations around the world. We pledge to continue rendering assistance to the United Nations in order to achieve the global aspiration of creating a peaceful and orderly world based on the principle of the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to further underscore the need for the reform of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council which is an important pillar of the international peace and security which hinges on the international law. As we seek to strengthen the rule of law at international level, the governing structures of the UN must give equal comfort to all its members.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate once again that the Rule of Law at the national and international levels, is an important tool for promoting democracy, human rights, relations among states, fighting international crimes and making possible for a just, fair, secure and peaceful world.

I THANK YOU.