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Statement by United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu, on the accession by the Republic of Zambia to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

(New York, 14 September 2022) The United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu congratulates the Republic of Zambia for accessing to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Republic of Zambia became party to the Genocide Convention on 20 April 2022. The Convention successfully entered into force for Zambia on 19 July 2022 following the deposit of the instrument of accession and in accordance with article XIII (3) of the Convention.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide prohibits the crime of genocide and requires signatory governments to take necessary steps to prevent or halt it. Through acceding to or ratifying the Genocide Convention, States not only take on the responsibility to prevent and punish genocide and honour the victims but also demonstrate commitment to the values and principles of the United Nations and respect of international human rights law.

The Special Adviser welcomes the Republic of Zambia's accession to the Genocide Convention and encourages all those Member States that have not yet done so to follow through. "The Republic of Zambia sets an example for the international community and my office stands ready to provide support, including to the recently established Zambian Committee on the Prevention of Genocide, to implement this important treaty", the Special Adviser added.

The Genocide Convention is the first human rights treaty adopted on 9 December 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly in the aftermath of World War II. As of today, a total of 153 States (including one non-member observer State) have ratified or acceded to the Genocide Convention.

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