

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

STATEMENT

BY

MS GERTRUDE K. MWAPE

COUNSELLOR

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

TO THE

**THIRTY-FIFTH (35th) SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION**

NEW YORK

22ND APRIL, 2013

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor to address this gathering.

From the outset, I wish to congratulate you and the entire bureau on your election. I wish to assure you of Zambia's continued support.

Zambia aligns itself with the statement read by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam Chairperson,

Zambia wishes to stress the important role that freedom of expression, speech and the media play in consolidating social and economic development as well as promotion of democracy.

The Government of Zambia remains committed to promoting and protecting human rights and freedom of expression and speech.

The Government of Zambia remains steadfast in its quest to enhance media freedom and access to information to ensure many people have timely and accurate information to enable them make informed decisions for the benefit of their lives, their communities and the country at large.

It is in this regard, that the Government of Zambia supports state-run media to operate independently without political interference or any hindrance.

Further, the Government has encouraged the establishment of private media. This has led to an increase in the number of privately-owned electronic, print and online news media in the recent past.

Madam Chairperson,

As part of technological advancement in the media industry, Zambia, like other African countries, will be changing the Terrestrial TV Broadcasting platform from analogue to digital by 2015.

To support this move, the country has established a multi-sector National Task Force on Digital Migration to develop and oversee the national digital migration process.

The Task Force has made headways in a bid to meet the deadline.

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation is gratified to note that the Committee on Information has been and continues to be a strong and reliable advocate of fundamental freedoms of expression, speech and media.

My delegation is appreciative of the pertinent role the UN Department of Public Information plays in providing up-to-date and accurate information about the work of the United Nations to Member States and the public at large.

Therefore, my delegation pledges to work very closely with the DPI. It is our desire to further strengthen ties between the media in Zambia and the United Nations media wings.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to successful deliberations of the 35th Session of the Committee on Information.

I thank you.