



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

DRAFT

STATEMENT BY

**HONOURABLE INONGE WINA, MP MINISTER OF GENDER AND
CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

AT THE

**FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS
OF WOMEN**

ON

**THE PRIORITY THEME, *'ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS'***

5th March 2013

NEW YORK

***Chairperson,
Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates***

It is with pleasure that I deliver this statement on behalf of the Zambian Delegation. I am particularly happy that this year's Session is focussing on the theme which aims at addressing violence against women and girls. In this regard, I wish to extend my appreciation to the Secretary General for his report.

My delegation aligns itself to the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Honourable Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of the Republic of Malawi on behalf of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

Chairperson

Zambia reaffirms its commitment to the full and effective implementation and acceleration of measures contained in the international agreements on gender and development to which it is party, such as the Beijing Declaration and platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Millennium Development Goals.

In this regard, Zambia has taken positive measures in eliminating and preventing all forms of Violence against women and girls. Critical to ensuring the protection, promotion and upholding of the rights of women and girls is the ongoing review processes of the Republican Constitutional and the National Gender Policy.

The current draft Constitution has removed the infamous discriminatory Article 23 which allowed discrimination in matters of personal law. The Draft Constitution further provides for the establishment of the Gender Equality Commission. With many other progressive provisions contained in the draft, once fully adopted, the Constitution will contribute greatly to the elimination of violence against women and girls thereby ensuring the attainment of gender equality and equity.

The Draft National Gender Policy on the other hand, provides guidance to all sector policies in ensuring the elimination of all forms of discrimination and imbalances faced by women and girls;

Further, the enactment of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act in 2011 is another milestone that Zambia has scored. The Act which provides for preventive and protective measures, establishment of shelters for survivors of

gender based violence, and the monitoring and coordinating Committee is already being implemented.

Zambia has exhibited highest commitment and political will in eliminating Violence against women and girls as evidenced by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata when he directed the Judiciary to establish fast track courts. Zambia therefore stands ready to learn, build capacity of the judiciary and other enforcements agencies as well as and receive support to establish this comprehensive system.

Chairperson

To accelerate the implementation of measures outlined above, Government in collaboration with cooperating partners has been providing dedicated funds to facilitate the promotion and protection of women's and girls' rights thus contributing to the reduction of Gender Based Violence.

In addition, Government in close collaboration with various development partners including the civil society organisations have made tremendous efforts in providing preventive mechanisms and multi sectoral responses to eliminate violence against women and girls. Awareness raising programmes to the General Public are ongoing to ensure attainment of Zero Tolerance to gender based violence. These programmes include:

Community mobilization, engagement of men as change agents, involvement and sensitisation of religious and traditional leaders, including local council and other opinion leaders.

Notwithstanding the efforts made, a number of challenges have been encountered in the elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls. These include:

- i. legal and judiciary constraints which delays disposing of court cases
- ii. limitation of reliable data, inadequate human resources and capacity to manage cases of GBV,
- iii. inadequate safe houses to provide temporal protective shelters and;
- iv. Limited facilities such as forensic equipment.

Finally Chairperson, it is my delegation's expectation that the 57th Session of the CSW will positively debate and conclude the agenda items for this session and provide the necessary guidance and direction to further promote gender equity,

equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in relation to the priority theme.

I thank you