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STATEMENT BY

MRS. PATRICIA CHISANGA-KONDOLO
COUNSELLOR
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

66TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IN THE

THIRD COMMITTEE

ON

AGENDA ITEM: 28

(a) ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN;
(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE
FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
AND OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York
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the law enforcement agencies and social workers. The overall goal of the National Guidelines is to ensure the implementation of uniform procedures across the country amongst all SGBV service providers.

Chairperson,

Government recognises that economic empowerment of women underpins women's wider empowerment and the attainment of their rights. The majority of Zambia women are active in trade and the informal economy but they continue to be hampered by lack of rights, resources and economic opportunities.

Government has responded to this challenge by establishing the Empowerment Fund under the Citizen Economic Empowerment Commission and has set aside 30 percent of the funds for women entrepreneurs. In addition, Government has provided specific funds to the National Gender Machinery through the Treasury to be accessed by women entrepreneurs who are unable to meet the requirements set by the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission. Government set aside $1 Million in 2010 and an addition $2 Million in the 2011 financial year. While these funds have made difference in women's lives they are far from meeting the needs of the majority of women in need of financial support.

Chairperson,

The Beijing Platform for Action and the follow-up Actions remain the guiding document for Zambia's empowerment programmes for women's emancipation. Government has in this regard strengthened the institutional framework for gender mainstreaming through the Office of the Minister responsible for Gender. This has had the advantage of ensuring that all decisions being made by Cabinet are scrutinized for gender responsiveness.

Government has gone a step further to develop and implement the Strategy for Engendering the Public Service which calls for the institutionalisation of and accountability for gender mainstreaming at all levels. It is the view of Government that the implementation of the Strategy will accelerate further the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the achievement of other internationally agreed development goals including the MDG's.

I wish conclude that while the achievement of gender equity and equality is the primary responsibility of governments, we wish to see a strong presence and active role of the UN Gender Entity, UN Women, through the provision of technical and financial assistance to the Members States.

I thank you.