



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

**HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. LEVY PATRICK MWANAWASA, S.C.
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

TO THE

**62ND SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, NY
WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2007**

- ❖ **YOUR EXCELLENCY DR. SRGJAN KERIM, PRESIDENT OF THE 62ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**
- ❖ **THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. BAN KI-MOON,**
- ❖ **EXCELLENCIES,**
- ❖ **DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

MR. PRESIDENT,

ALLOW ME, FROM THE OUTSET, TO CONVEY MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON YOUR ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE SIXTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MY DELEGATION IS CONFIDENT THAT WITH YOUR IMMENSE WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE, YOU WILL STEER THE SESSION VERY SUCCESSFULLY. ZAMBIA ASSURES YOU OF HER TOTAL SUPPORT DURING YOUR TENURE OF OFFICE.

LET ME, AT THIS POINT, PAY TRIBUTE TO MR. KURT WALDHEIM, THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL, AND LATER PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA WHO DIED ON 14TH JUNE 2007. TO US, HE WAS A GREAT DIPLOMAT WHO MADE AFRICA ONE OF HIS PRIORITIES, ESPECIALLY AT THE HEIGHT OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

MR. PRESIDENT,

MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOUR PREDECESSOR, HER EXCELLENCY SHEIKHA RASHED AL KHALIFA OF BAHRAIN FOR PRESIDING OVER THE AFFAIRS OF THE SIXTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER. AMONG HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS WAS THE CARRYING FORWARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS REFORMS FROM THE 2005 WORLD SUMMIT. IT WAS GRATIFYING TO HAVE A LADY PRESIDE OVER THE HIGHEST OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFTER ALMOST THREE DECADES OF MALE DOMINANCE. I HOPE THAT THIS ORGAN WILL NOT AGAIN TAKE THIS LONG TO HAVE ANOTHER EXCELLENT FEMALE PRESIDENT.

LET ME NOW CONGRATULATE MR. BAN KI-MOON OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FOR HIS ELECTION AS THE EIGHTH SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL BUILD UPON THE STRONG FOUNDATION THAT WAS LAID BY HIS PREDECESSOR KOFI ANNAN OF GHANA, TO WHOM I WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE FOR THE MANNER HE STEERED THIS ORGANISATION DURING HIS TENURE OF OFFICE. HE MADE AFRICA PROUD AND I WISH HIM SUCCESS IN HIS CURRENT AND FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

OUR WORLD TODAY PRESENTS A LOT OF CHALLENGES. THESE INCLUDE ABJECT POVERTY FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S INHABITANTS, UNDERDEVELOPMENT, CONFLICTS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, CLIMATE CHANGE, TERRORISM, VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC, AND GENDER EQUALITY. WHILE SOME OF THESE CHALLENGES HAVE ONLY RECENTLY EMERGED, OTHERS HAVE BEEN WITH US FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL.

THESE CHALLENGES CANNOT BE ENTIRELY RESOLVED WITHIN NATIONAL BOUNDARIES OR AT REGIONAL LEVEL. THEY CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED AT THE MULTILATERAL LEVEL WITH ALL PLAYERS CARRYING OUT THEIR ROLES DILIGENTLY. FOR THIS REASON, ZAMBIA SUPPORTS THE NEED FOR A STRONG AND COHERENT UNITED NATIONS. WE AGREE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS URGENTLY NEEDS MORE COHERENCE AND SYNERGY. THIS WILL ENABLE IT TO PERFORM AS ONE AND TO USE ITS UNIQUE UNIVERSALITY, NEUTRALITY AND CAPACITY TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY.

FURTHERMORE, ZAMBIA SUPPORTS THE ONGOING REFORMS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IN PARTICULAR WE WELCOME THE MANDATE GIVEN TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE IN EXECUTING ITS DUTIES, WHICH INCLUDE FORMULATING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES, AS WELL AS COORDINATING ACTIVITIES OF SPECIALISED AGENCIES IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS. IN THIS REGARD, COLLABORATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL

INSTITUTIONS AND THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION SHOULD FURTHER BE ENHANCED AND WE WELCOME THE WORK GOING ON IN THIS AREA.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THIS BRINGS ME TO ANOTHER ISSUE - THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL. THIS MATTER HAS REMAINED UNRESOLVED FOR OVER A DECADE. THE UNITED NATIONS REFORMS CANNOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT MEANINGFUL REFORM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

ANY NEW PROPOSALS TO REFORM THIS VITAL ORGAN SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER AFRICA'S CALL TO HAVE TWO PERMANENT SEATS WITH FULL VETO POWER. AFRICA IS AWARE THAT THE VETO IS AN UNDEMOCRATIC INSTRUMENT AND WOULD PREFER TO DO AWAY WITH IT ALTOGETHER. HOWEVER, AS LONG AS OTHERS INSIST ON KEEPING THE VETO, AFRICA SHOULD HAVE IT AS WELL. THE STATUS QUO IS UNACCEPTABLE. IT IS MY HOPE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT DURING YOUR TENURE OF OFFICE, THIS ASPECT OF THE REFORM PROCESS WILL BE CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE CURRENT AND FUTURE INHABITANTS OF OUR PLANET. IT IS THEREFORE FITTING THAT THE THEME OF THIS SESSION IS "RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE". TO THIS EFFECT, I COMMEND THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ORGANIZING THE HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON THIS MATTER ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2007. INDEED, THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ARE BEING FELT MOSTLY BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FOR INSTANCE, SOUTHERN AFRICA IS EXPERIENCING CRITICAL FOOD SHORTAGES DUE TO TORRENTIAL RAINS IN SOME AREAS AND SEVERE DROUGHT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE REGION.

THE PROBLEM OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS A GLOBAL ISSUE REQUIRING GLOBAL ACTION WITHIN THE MULTILATERAL CONTEXT OF THE UNITED NATIONS. BEING A SIGNATORY TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE KYOTO PROTOCOL, ZAMBIA HAS ALREADY TAKEN SEVERAL MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THESE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS. IN THIS

REGARD, WE SUBMITTED OUR FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNICATION REPORT IN 2004. WE HAVE ALSO TAKEN DELIBERATE STEPS TO CREATE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF CLIMATE CHANGE SO THAT OUR PEOPLE CAN DEVISE APPROPRIATE LOCAL INTERVENTIONS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

REGARDING MEASURES AIMED AT ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE ZAMBIA HAS JUST FINISHED FORMULATING A NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMME OF ACTION. THIS PROGRAMME WILL HELP US IDENTIFY THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY, AS WELL AS ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES REQUIRED TO ALLEVIATE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. FOR THIS REASON, WE CALL UPON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THAT THE ADAPTATION FUND UNDER THE CONVENTION, WHICH HAS TAKEN RATHER LONG, IS MADE OPERATIONAL.

WHILE PLACING EMPHASIS ON ADAPTATION, WE ALSO PLEDGE TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER SOURCES. WE CALL UPON INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, WHO HAVE A HISTORY OF PRODUCING THESE EMISSIONS, TO TAKE SERIOUS STEPS TO REDUCE THEM. WE BELIEVE THE SITUATION IS NOW SERIOUS AND NARROW NATIONAL INTERESTS IN THIS MATTER MUST BE DISCARDED HENCEFORTH.

MR. PRESIDENT,

AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, ZAMBIA NEEDS ASSISTANCE TO ENHANCE HER CAPACITY IN KEY ADAPTIVE AREAS LIKE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, EARLY WARNING, AND RAPID RESPONSE TO ADDRESS THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATIC CHANGE. ACCORDINGLY, ZAMBIA CALLS FOR SPEEDY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES TO HELP US COPE WITH THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS WELL AS PUT US ON A LOW CARBON ECONOMIC GROWTH PATH. WE ALSO CALL FOR A MORE COHERENT INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN THE YEAR 2000, THE DEVELOPING WORLD EMBRACED THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AS A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO MOVE OUR COUNTRIES OUT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DECLINE AND BETTER INTEGRATE US INTO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. HALF WAY THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION TIME, MANY COUNTRIES ARE FAR FROM ATTAINING MOST OF THE GOALS. THIS IS SO INSPITE OF THE RECORDED IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE BY SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOLLOWING THE RECENT DEBT RELIEF INITIATIVES, COUPLED WITH SUSTAINED PRUDENT ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT.

TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT, IN ZAMBIA, THE ECONOMY GREW BY 6.2 PERCENT LAST YEAR AND INFLATION DECLINED TO A SINGLE DIGIT LEVEL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIRTY YEARS. THESE ECONOMIC GAINS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT TRANSLATED INTO SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN THE INCIDENCE OF POVERTY, WHICH STANDS AT 68 PERCENT. ZAMBIA'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS ARE FURTHER COMPROMISED BY THE HIV AND AIDS PANDEMIC AND NOW, THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

WITH REGARD TO THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC, MY GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED HIV/AIDS A NATIONAL CRISIS, REQUIRING SUSTAINED MITIGATION AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS FOR THE SUPPORT BEING RENDERED TO ZAMBIA IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA.

MR. PRESIDENT

DESPITE THESE CHALLENGES, ZAMBIA ON HER PART HAS MADE STEADY PROGRESS AND IS LIKELY TO MEET MOST OF THE MDG TARGETS BY 2015. THE TARGETS MOST LIKELY NOT TO BE ATTAINED BY 2015 ARE: REDUCING BY THREE QUARTERS THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO, INTEGRATING THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO COUNTRY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES AND REVERSING THE LOSS OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES. OUR GOAL NOW IS TO TRANSLATE THE ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS INTO TANGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE. THIS GOAL IS ENSHRINED IN ZAMBIA'S VISION 2030, WHICH IS AIMED AT THE COUNTRY ATTAINING MIDDLE INCOME STATUS,

SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING HUNGER AND POVERTY AND FOSTERING A COMPETITIVE AND OUTWARD-ORIENTED ECONOMY.

BUT THIS GOAL WILL REMAIN ELUSIVE IF OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS DO NOT FULFIL THEIR COMMITMENTS. INDEED IT IS SADDENING TO NOTE THAT TOTAL OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE DECLINED IN REAL TERMS BY 5.1 PERCENT BETWEEN 2005 AND 2006 AND ONLY FIVE DONOR COUNTRIES HAVE MET OR EXCEEDED THE 0.7 PERCENT TARGET. I URGE THE COOPERATING PARTNERS TO FULFIL THEIR COMMITMENTS. FURTHERMORE, WHILE ZAMBIA WELCOMES THE DISCUSSIONS AND PROGRESS MADE ON AID EFFECTIVENESS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PARIS DECLARATION WE CALL FOR OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO BE DELIVERED IN A MORE EFFICIENT MANNER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECLARATION.

MR. PRESIDENT,

AID CANNOT BE EFFECTIVE UNLESS CORRUPTION IS UPROOTED. MY GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE DECLARED WAR AGAINST THIS SOCIAL VICE. ACCORDINGLY, I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO URGE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DESIST FROM PROVIDING SAFE HAVENS FOR LEADERS WHO PLUNDER NATIONAL RESOURCES. SUCH ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE COUNTRIES FROM WHERE IT WAS MISAPPROPRIATED SO THAT IT CAN BE USED TO FIGHT POVERTY.

ZAMBIA CONDEMNS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS AND MANIFESTATIONS. FOR THIS REASON, WE CALL UPON MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REFRAIN FROM HABOURING TERRORISTS. ON OUR PART, ZAMBIA SUPPORTS THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO COMBAT TERRORISM.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THROUGH REGIONAL BODIES SUCH AS THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC), DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ENHANCE THEIR ABILITY TO COOPERATE AND ALSO JOINTLY NEGOTIATE FOR BETTER ACCESS TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' MARKETS. CONSEQUENTLY, DURING ZAMBIA'S CURRENT CHAIRMANSHIP OF SADC, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO CONSOLIDATE THE FORMATION

OF THE SADC FREE TRADE AREA BY 2008 AS A PRE-REQUISITE TO THE REGIONAL CUSTOMS UNION. IN ADDITION, ZAMBIA SHALL, ON BEHALF OF SADC, SOLICIT FOR FUNDING TO DEVELOP ADEQUATE REGIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY INFRASTRUCTURE IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE MUCH NEEDED CONNECTIVITY IN AREAS LIKE WATER, TRANSPORT, ENERGY, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

MANY REGIONS INCLUDING AFRICA HAVE BEEN DOGGED BY CONFLICT. THIS HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE COUNTRIES' POTENTIAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC ARENA. IN THE QUEST FOR PEACE IN OUR SUB REGION, SADC HAS LAUNCHED A STAND-BY BRIGADE, WHICH WILL HAVE CAPACITY FOR PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL RENDER NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE BRIGADE TO ENABLE IT TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE.

BETTER STILL, SADC AND ZAMBIA VALUE THE TENETS OF DEMOCRACY, POLITICAL STABILITY AND INTEGRATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS THE ULTIMATE SOUND BASIS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY. SADC WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE CONDUCTING OF FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN THE REGION.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO REAFFIRM, WITH REGARD TO THE THEME OF THIS SESSION, ZAMBIA'S COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF CLIMATE CHANGE. IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT ALL OF US WILL PLAY OUR FULL PART ACCORDING TO OUR ABILITIES TO DEAL WITH THIS SERIOUS GLOBAL CHALLENGE. TO THIS END, MR. PRESIDENT, WE SHOULD NOT REMAIN INDECISIVE AND INDIFFERENT TO THIS SERIOUS ISSUE. NEITHER SHOULD WE MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT WE CAN, TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN.

I THANK YOU