



# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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**STATEMENT BY  
HONOURABLE MR. HARRY KALABA, M.P.,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 69TH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2014**

**NEW YORK**

- Your Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa President of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
- Your Excellences, Heads of State and Government;
- Your Excellences the Heads of Delegations
- Distinguished Delegates.

Please accept our sincere congratulations on your election to preside over the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly. To us, you are undertaking this onerous task at a particularly important moment not only in forging the future global development agenda, but also in the development of international peace and security. I therefore assure you of my Government's support as you set upon discharging this important assignment. In the same spirit, I also convey appreciation for the contribution made by your predecessor, Dr. John Ashe the President of the 68<sup>th</sup> session.

**Mr. President,**

I wish to highlight our deep concern at the global health emergency that has resulted from the Ebola outbreak in parts of Africa. This burden is not only for the people of Liberia, Sierra Leone, or Guinea. Zambia views this epidemic as a common challenge to humanity and therefore stands ready to support all efforts required to defeat the disease and bring back normalcy in the daily economic and social lives in our sister Republics that are directly facing this disease.

There is a growing acceptance and concern that this disease could easily spread beyond the first four countries which have so far borne the brunt of this disease. The recent resurgence of the disease in the neighbouring, Democratic Republic of Congo is a reminder of the extent of this danger. Beyond that we remain deeply concerned that in all, over 5000 people have been victims of the disease and 2400 needless deaths have already been recorded across the continent.

Zambia therefore supports the call for greater and wider involvement by all UN member states. The WHO has already warned that if left unchecked we will soon be dealing with over 20,000 Ebola patients.

It is equally for this reason that we continue to look at global health issues as important parameters for global development. The Ebola public health emergency

and other ongoing challenges such as Malaria, TB, AIDS and other Non-Communicable diseases, need a concerted global approach.

In the past few months the international community has witnessed the growing desperation of the extremist terrorist organizations, notably through the abduction of innocent school girls in Borno State, Nigeria and the wider reign of terror which includes bombing civilian trading points across this important African nation.

**Mr. President,**

Zambia is also concerned about the insecurity currently being experienced as a result of the instability in Ukraine. We have followed the counter accusations which point to the deep seated divisions and suspicions of a bygone era. Sadly, the human loss has been heavy, as the ordinary Ukrainian is caught in the middle of a crisis that is strongly influenced by foreign factors.

Innocent civilians from other nations have also been drawn in, through the loss of lives on the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17. We share in the sorrow of the families and the nations that lost their loved ones in this human inflicted catastrophe. Zambia believes that the ordinary Ukrainian citizens are of the same view and desire nothing but peace, harmony and prosperity for their country. They should be allowed to enjoy these basic human conditions.

These and other global security concerns linger in the face of a United Nations which is becoming ever more challenged in coordinating any robust and convincing global response.

**Mr. President,**

This General Assembly session is also taking place at a moment of the renewed focus on the global development agenda through the post-2015 negotiations and the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). My understanding has been that the negotiations have so far been engaging and have included the participation of all stakeholders including governments, civil society, the business community and academia among others. It can therefore be said that we have laid a solid foundation upon which the world will articulate its development policies for the next decade and a half, in line with the three pillars (economic, social, and environmental) of the SDGs.

We look forward to the completion of these deliberations knowing that unless the Means of Implementation are adequately covered, with new investment inflows, we risk rendering this noble effort into a futile exercise. Given the immense challenges facing our nations, it is such multilateral approaches that will address the underlying cross-border factors that affect climate change, global poverty, public health, children's welfare, labour and migration, youth unemployment, the advancement of women, and many other factors whose solutions lie in actions that may have trans-boundary effects.

The new global development regime must therefore demonstrate a new and more robust approach to these problems. For this reason, Zambia supports the related meetings being held alongside this General Assembly session, notably those relating to Population and Development, Labour and Decent Work, and the 2014 Climate Summit. It is hoped that these discussions will in the not-too-distant future, lead to lasting solutions in addressing the development challenges faced by many of our countries.

On another important matter, I wish to report that Zambia has increased its campaign to forestall the growing problem of Child, Early and Forced Marriages. This problem is strongly rooted in the prevailing poverty levels in some poor families and in the quest by organized criminals to make profit from selling off under-age girls either into marriage or to engage in other exploitative vices. With this national awakening to the problem, Zambia hosted a three-day national symposium on the problem in July (2014). We look forward to working with other nations to ensure that a global approach is developed in curbing the incidences of Child, Early and Forced Marriages, a problem with greater consequences for the future advancement of women.

Zambia is also undertaking several other initiatives aimed at reducing the gender divide. My Government is of the conviction that girls and women should be enabled and allowed to reach their full potential and be able to contribute to national growth on equal footing with their menfolk. In this regard, the education of the girl child and the socio-economic empowerment of women through their participation in key decision making positions is top on the national agenda.

Furthermore, Zambia reaffirms its commitment made at the Beijing Conference in 1995 on gender equality and the empowerment of women. My Government has continued to press on the importance of women's emancipation and their contribution to national development in line with the Declaration and Platform of Action of the Beijing Conference.

**Mr. President,**

The question of the reform of the UN Security Council remains an important priority for Zambia and the rest of the African continent. We remain deeply concerned that little progress has been recorded in the negotiations for the expansion of the Council. Africa remains fully committed to all five clusters of the Inter-governmental Negotiations (IGN) process as outlined under General Assembly Decision 62/557 of 2008. As a member of the African Union Committee of Ten (C-10) on the Security Council reforms, let me echo other voices in reiterating the importance our member states attach to the realization of these long overdue reforms.

My delegation also accords due priority to the questions relating to countries in special situations, in particular the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) for which Zambia was in March this year, nominated as current Chair. The implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as adopted in 2003, has run its course albeit with mixed results. It is coming up for review at the LLDC Summit to be held in Vienna, Austria in just over a month's time, from 3-5<sup>th</sup> November, 2014. The 32 member states in this Grouping are counting on the support of the entire UN membership in ensuring a successful conference which we expect to firmly place the LLDC on a sound path of development. I therefore look forward to your full participation at that conference.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to end by informing this august house that our historic capital city Lusaka has in the past year been celebrating its 100 years centenary. This occasion was followed this year by two other important celebrations, namely the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of our founding father, the First Republican President Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our national independence which falls on 24<sup>th</sup> October.

These commemorations have offered a unique chance not only to celebrate, but also reflect on our development path. I submit that, within our known difficulties in the social and economic development lies a strong national spirit, eager to contribute not only to our own growth but also to that which the growing global inter-dependence demands. Let me on behalf of all Zambians express appreciation

to all those that have helped our beloved country in achieving these milestones. Zambia looks forward to a strengthened and more versatile United Nations system that will help create the conditions for the further growth and development of our youthful nation.

I thank you.