

# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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## STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

MR. LEVY PATRICK MWANAWASA, SC

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

TO THE 60<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

ON SUNDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2005

Mr. President,

Five years ago, we committed ourselves to eight identifiable development goals. Today, we have re-committed ourselves to uphold the principles and goals set out in that historical Millennium Declaration. We hope that the commitments we have undertaken will not remain mere empty words but, this time around the international community will make concerted efforts to implement them.

Mr. President,

In this regard, we are inspired by the report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. Those of us from Africa, see the report of the Secretary-General as an opportunity to realize the goals set out by the OAU 1997 Harare Declaration that called for the Reform of the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. President,

My delegation supports the demand of the African Union for two Permanent Seats on the United Nations Security Council, with all the privileges, including the right of veto. Our position is not meant to frustrate the reform process. The African region, considers the reform of the organization as an opportunity to

correct historical injustice that stands as a dark cloud over our people.

We are however, aware that some permanent members of the Security Council are reluctant to give up the veto power at the moment. It is in this regard, that Africa, like other regions deserves the right of veto has the absence of this right will only serve to perpetuate the marginalisation of the continent.

Mr. President,

The position, I have outlined above, does not in any way mean that Africa is against the expansion of the Security Council to include other important countries that contribute to international peace and security. Let me reaffirm, in this regard that Zambia supports the four candidate States of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan to permanent membership on the Security Council with full privileges including that of veto power.

I am only stressing that Africa is entitled and deserves the right of permanent representation in the Security Council, with the right of veto not only as a matter of correcting an historical injustice against Africa but also to uphold the democratic principles of regional equality.

Mr. President,

Two days ago, we adopted an outcome document of the High-Level Plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The High-Level Plenary meeting provided a rare opportunity for us to share experiences in the implementation of the development agenda, in particular, and highlighted the need for enhanced international cooperation and coordination if we are to achieve the much sought after economic development. While the document does not contain everything we would have wanted to include in it, it nevertheless, represents an important basis for continued dialogue during this Session.

Mr. President,

Since 2001, Africa has been implementing the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) whose main objective is to enhance the capacity of African countries to reduce the high incidence of poverty on the continent and strengthening efforts to achieve sustainable economic development. While we acknowledge support the international community has so far rendered to the realization of NEPAD's objectives, it is also true that this support has proved to be insufficient.

Mr. President,

It is the view of my Government that while Official Development Assistance (ODA) may help in the achievement of the MDGs; trade would help in sustaining its gains. In this regard, Zambia wishes to urge all stakeholders to bring to a speedy conclusion of the DOHA round of trade negotiations which will act as a catalyst towards achieving sustainable development.

The external debt problem is still a major hindrance to development. The current unfavourable terms in agriculture and commodity trading make the problem even more unbearable.

Mr. President,

My delegation commends the United Nations' support to the efforts of the African Union's peace initiatives on the continent. The Pan-African Parliament, and the Peace and Security Council are part of the infrastructure in support of peace and security. In this regard, I wish to pledge Zambia's continued support of the process.

Zambia, as one of the core Member States of the Great Lakes Region, would like to associate herself with the remarkable progress that continues to be made in the areas of peace and security in the sub-region since the Security Council Report of November 17, 2003

by the Secretary-General on Preparations for an International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. We are encouraged by some positive developments brought about, so far, through the process of "Regional Ownership and International Partnership" with the combined efforts of the UN and the African Union, the Group of Friends and the sub-regional Governments concerned.

Mr. President,

My Government will continue to play its part in the fight against international terrorism. Zambia rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We are determined to work with the rest of the international community to implement the counter-terrorism strategy.

Mr. President,

Zambia is committed to promote and respect human rights, the rule of law and democracy. In Zambia we believe that democracy has universal values. We believe, therefore it is under conditions of democracy that all human rights are protected.

Mr. President,

Allow me to conclude my statement by referring to the efforts my Government is making to fight corruption. The nation as a whole

has realized that the state of our economy could have been better if all the resources available were put to proper utilization. In this regard, one cannot over emphasize the fact that corruption erodes the incomes of households and business, hence defeating efforts to reduce poverty.

I wish to explain that the Zambia Task Force on corruption is an instrument for development that my Government hopes will enhance capacity to utilize public resources for the purpose that benefit the nation as a whole. More importantly, the attainment of the HIPC completion point by my country, can, in large measure be attributed to the success of the campaign against corruption which prompted Government to introduce stringent financial controls, transparent and accountable public expenditure measures. The United Nations should consider increasing its resources in the fight against corruption.

Mr. President,

As we mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this, our great institution, we cannot but conclude that it's importance and continued relevance to mankind is beyond question. It is, in this context that we need to revitalize it in order for it to fulfill the ideals for which it was established.

I Thank You.