



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. MR. LAZAROUS KAPAMBWE
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 134: FINANCIAL REPORTS & REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF
AUDITORS**

DELIVERED AT THE

73RDSESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York

22nd October, 2018

Madam Chair,

I wish to thank Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, Controller and Auditor General of India and also Chair of the Board of Auditors for introducing the financial reports and audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors for the period ended 31 December 2017.

My delegation welcomes the findings and recommendations made in this report and encourages the timely adoption of outstanding recommendations with the view to better improve the work of the Organization.

We note that all entities have received unqualified audit opinions from the Board of Auditors and therefore, hope that the entities audited shall continue to maintain their successes. We are also enlightened on the fact that the financial health of the UN remains sound owing to the fact that the Organization's current assets sufficiently covered the current liabilities with ratios of 3.88 unlike 3.41 recorded in 2017.

Madam Chair,

Notwithstanding the above accomplishments, allow me to highlight some areas of concern indicated in the report.

We note that long-term employee benefit liabilities increased to \$4,940.30 million in 2017 from \$4,234.16 million in 2016. Although it is indicated that these liabilities are covered by a large asset base, these employee benefit liabilities have the potential to negatively affect the regular budget if it remains underfunded.

We also wish to note with concern that the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Framework of the United Nations Secretariat had not been operationalized in some bodies of the UN. We also take note of the mandatory anti-fraud training which had not been completed and that a dedicated procurement-related anti-fraud training had not been provided for in the Procurement Division of the United Nations. We therefore, welcome the calls made to attach great importance to fraud related training especially in the Procurement Division.

In view of the aforementioned, we call on strengthened efforts towards the implementation of recommendations of the Board of Auditors. Although the number of recommendations that have not yet been implemented still remains high, we are glad to learn that the annual implementation rates of recommendations made in 2017 have improved compared to 2016.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude for the level of transparency highlighted in the reports presented to us today. We stand ready to work with fellow Member States in having fruitful discussions relating to these reports and providing lasting solutions with hopes to improve on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Board of Auditors.

I thank you.