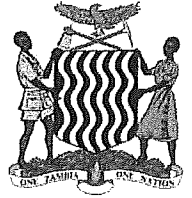


REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

**MR. SYLVESTER MUNDANDA
DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 137: IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

DELIVERED AT THE

74TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York

18th October, 2019

Chairperson,

Since it is the first time my delegation is speaking in this Committee, I wish to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election. I wish to assure you of Zambia's full support during your tenure of office and as you execute the mandate of the Committee.

Chairperson,

The global economic growth has continued to decline in 2019. The real output growth is estimated at 3.2 percent as compared to 3.6 percent in 2018. This adverse outturn is attributed to geo-political tensions. The global economic downturn has had negative impact on the Zambian economy.

On the domestic front, preliminary data indicate that growth in 2019, initially projected at 4 percent, will slow down to 2 percent compared to 3.7 in 2018. This is mainly on account of adverse climatic conditions, particularly poor rainfall in the 2018/2019 rain season which has negatively affected agricultural output and electricity generation. The

lower electricity generation has had negative spill-over effects on other sectors.

Chairperson, growth has further been adversely affected by a decline in copper output due to fall in world prices and global demand. In addition, tight liquidity conditions, have contributed to subdued economic growth.

On the back drop of the foregoing, Zambia is likely to continue facing increased pressure in meeting her financial obligations fully and in a timely manner. Consequently, I humbly appeal for continuation of the current payment methodology and level of assessed contributions. Given the slow pace at which the global as well as the domestic economies are growing, my delegation is of the view that increasing Member States contributions will only further inhibit Zambia's capacity to honor its financial obligations to the UN.

Chairperson

Notwithstanding the highlighted challenges, Zambia attaches great importance to the need for Member States

to meet in full and in a timely manner, their respective obligations for assessed contributions.

We note that the UN is operating on large arrears and unpaid contributions. This, in the long run may cripple the organization in the delivery of its mandate. We therefore, would like to urge all Member States with outstanding contributions to meet their financial obligations as soon as possible. We are also of view that the affected member states should be allowed the flexibility to submit their multi-year payment plans and to demonstrate their commitment and support to the mandate of the UN.

Chairperson

In conclusion, the Government of the Republic of Zambia wishes to reaffirm its assurance to cooperate and work with all Member States in moving the UN agenda and its operations forward.

I thank you.