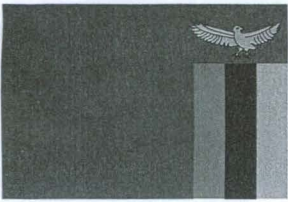


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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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

SIXTY- EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. DR. MWABA P. KASESE- BOTA (MRS)
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AGENDA ITEM 85

**THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

*9 October, 2013
New York, NY*

Mr. Chairperson

This being the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, I wish to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this Committee. In the same vein, I congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election. Zambia is confident that under your leadership, the Sixth Committee will successfully conclude its work. My delegation assures you of its full cooperation and support in this regard.

Zambia wishes to align itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Egypt on behalf of the African Group and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairperson

My delegation is honoured to address this distinguished assembly on Agenda Item number 85 on "The Rule of Law at National and International Levels". Zambia supports the call to foster the rule of law at the international level particularly with regard to the settlement of international disputes. My country appreciates the need to recognize and cooperate with established institutions. She recognises that the rule of law applies to international organizations and to all states equally. This calls for strict adherence to the principles of supremacy of the law, equality before the law and accountability to the law, including procedural transparency and fairness in the application of the law.

Mr. Chairperson

Zambia believes the rule of law is a useful tool in the resolution of disputes at international level. The effectiveness of the rule of law however, depends on the availability of institutional mechanisms and legal framework and most importantly, on strict adherence to the rule of law principles.

Mr. Chairperson

Zambia believes that adherence to the principles of supremacy of the law, accountability to the law, equality before the law and fairness in the application of the law, among others, is cardinal in ensuring respect for the institutions vested with the power of adjudication on international disputes. With regard to the supremacy of the law, the international community should be guided in its actions by the law as provided for in the relevant legal instruments, which also respect the supremacy of the member states legal framework. Equality before the law, entails equality all sovereign countries without discrimination. Accountability to the law requires that all states and international organisations should account for their actions to relevant institutions. Fairness in the application of the law requires non-selective application of the law which should apply to all Member States without discrimination. There is need therefore, to follow laid down procedures to avoid arbitrary decisions.

Mr. Chairperson,

In an effort to promote adherence to the Rule of Law at national level, Zambia's constitution provides, inter alia, that all persons are equal before the law. To ensure this equality, Zambia has established oversight institutions such as the Human Rights Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Judicial Complaints Authority and the Police Public Complaints Authority.

These institutions ensure the accountability of public, judicial and law enforcement officers and promote fairness in the application of the law.

To enhance democracy, Zambia is currently reviewing its constitution. It has also embarked on the fight against corruption and has in this regard, adopted a policy of zero-tolerance to corruption.

Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia has continued to participate in the promotion of the rule of law at the International level by contributing troops and other personnel to conflict and post – conflict situations around the world. We pledge to continue rendering assistance to the United Nations in order to achieve the global aspiration of creating a peaceful and orderly world based on the principle of the rule of law.

Mr. Chairperson

As I conclude, I wish to remind the International Community, that implementation of the rule of law remains a challenge despite some achievements scored, particularly for developing countries. There is need for enhanced Human Capital Investments as well as funding to support the establishment of governance structures. Zambia remains grateful to its cooperating partners for continued support to structures enforcing rule of law. We also call upon the rest of the international community to render more technical assistance and capacity building in order to further enhance and strengthen the institutions meant for the promotion, development and implementation of the rule of law.

I THANK YOU.