

# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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## STATEMENT

BY

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**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**ON AGENDA ITEM: 85 STATEMENT ON PROMOTION  
OF RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

New York, NY  
15<sup>th</sup> October, 2015

**Mr. Chairman,**

I am honoured, on behalf of the Republic of Zambia, to deliver a statement to this distinguished assembly on Agenda item number **85** on "*Promotion of Rule of Law at National and International levels*", with particular emphasis on the role of the multilateral treaty process in promoting and advancing the rule of law.

Zambia wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and that of South Africa on behalf of the African Group.

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening and Coordinating United Nations Rule of Law Activities (Document **A/70/206**). It is encouraging to note that the United Nations continues to provide assistance in ongoing constitutional processes in eligible countries.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Multilateral treaties are important instruments for defining how states maintain relations amongst themselves. They influence the structure of international relationship in a more predictable and fairer order. In this regard, Zambia values greatly the role that the United Nations plays in supporting the integrity of international treaties.

Major progress has been recorded in bringing the world to a common understanding of state obligations and duties. It however, remains a concern that in some cases it takes long to finalize some treaties. For instance, the United Nations Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism has been on the Sixth Committee's agenda for quite a long time. There is need to expedite the finalisation of treaties, especially those that hinge on international peace and security.

For its part, Zambia is a Party to many multilateral treaties that support the rule of law and will endeavor to formally append to more of the outstanding treaties.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Zambia recognizes that in order to comply with adherence to the rule of law, it is imperative that states develop legal and institutional frameworks which reflect and support the basic tenets of the rule of law as contained in various multilateral treaties. In this regard, Zambia appreciates the efforts of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit in assisting

Member States to develop national laws that incorporate international norms and standards.

Zambia also appreciates the role played over the years by the International Law Commission (ILC) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in multilateral treaty-making by providing progressive development of international law and its codification.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In an effort to promote adherence to the Rule of Law, Zambia's constitution provides, *inter alia*, that all persons are equal before the law. To ensure this equality, the Government has continued to support institutions such as the Human Rights Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission in their role of providing oversight on human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Zambia recognises that the rule of law requires that justice is delivered in a timely manner. In this regard, the Zambian Government has embarked on judicial reforms to facilitate the modernisation of the Judicial sector to enable it better serve the current and future needs of the country. My delegation is confident that the reforms will lead to a more accessible, independent, accountable, flexible and fair and just system.

**Mr. Chairman**

The rule of law is both an enabler and facilitator of development. We are therefore, gratified that the sustainable development goals (SDGs) will hinge on improving the rule of law, especially at international and national levels. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the inclusion of target number **16.3**, "*promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all*" **on goal 16** of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**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, thus far, particularly in developing countries. This is because of limited capacity induced by scarcity of resources to support relevant institutions and mechanisms. We therefore call upon the international community to render technical assistance to facilitate the enhancement and strengthening of institutions dealing with implementation of the rule of law.

Lastly, we as nations, regardless of our strength or weakness, instill within ourselves, a sense of negotiating treaties in good faith and desire to be bound by treaties representing the democratic choice of the majority.

**I thank you**