



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**ON AGENDA ITEM 84: STATEMENT ON RULE OF LAW AT THE
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

New York
5 October, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

I am honoured, on behalf of the Republic of Zambia, to deliver a statement to this distinguished assembly on Agenda item number **84** with particular emphasis on “*Sharing national practices of States in the implementation of multilateral treaties*” and “*Practical measures to facilitate access to justice for all, including for the poorest and most vulnerable*”.

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/71/169**). It is encouraging to note that the annual high level treaty event continues to be an important instrument for promotion of the international normative framework.

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 mutual understanding of state obligations and duties. It however, remains a concern that the process of reaching international agreement has taken on new dynamics which in most cases have delayed the finalization of treaties. One would wonder why this should be when we are in an era where our physical separation is diminishing in importance and our commonality is ever increasing.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia is a Party to many multilateral treaties that support the rule of law. This year alone, Zambia signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and deposited the following instruments: (i) Instrument of accession for the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963; (ii) Instrument of Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty; (iii) instrument of ratification of the Minama Convention on Mercury; and (iv) Instrument of accession for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Generic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from the

utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. We will endeavor to formally append to more of the outstanding treaties.

Mr. Chairman,

There is need to 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 enacted a new constitution which, *inter alia*, created a Constitutional court and court of Appeal.

Furthermore, 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. The reforms will enhance independence, accountability, flexibility and fairness.

The Government has also 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.

In accordance with the Zambian Constitution, Zambia held elections on 11 August, 2016. This was yet another opportunity for Zambia to demonstrate her commitment to uphold and promote the tenets of democracy. The peace that prevailed during and after elections is a demonstration of the consolidation of democracy in our country and re-enforces our commitment to the principle contained in the Constitutive Act of the African Union that makes it unacceptable to change Governments through unconstitutional means.

Zambia expresses its profound gratitude to the United Nations for the technical assistance provided to the Electoral Commission of Zambia to facilitate the recently held elections.

Mr. Chairman,

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. In this regard, I wish to appeal to the international community not to relent in according resources for the development of a credible and legitimate international legal system and the capacity of all people to absorb its requirements.

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.

I thank you
