



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT BY
H.E. DR. CHOLA MILAMBO
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON
AGENDA ITEM 84:
THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL
AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS
AT THE
SIXTH COMMITTEE
DURING THE
SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York

October 7, 2022

Chairperson

This being the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, may I take this opportunity to congratulate you upon your election as Chair of the bureau. I wish to assure you and your Bureau of Zambia's support throughout the 77th session of the General Assembly.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the distinguished representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the African Group.

We join others in thanking the Secretary-General for his report on *Strengthening and Coordinating United Nations Rule of Law Activities* and to assure him of our continued support in his efforts to strengthen and promote the rule of law across the globe.

Chairperson

Zambia places great importance on the rule of law and human rights. It is committed to ensuring the speedy dispensing of justice and widening of access to justice for all, especially for the disadvantaged in our society. In this regard, in 2021, Zambia broadened the scope of legal aid services and legal aid service providers as specified in the Legal Aid Act. The new legislation now permits civil society organisations, higher education institutions, legal assistants, paralegals, and legal practitioners to provide legal aid services.

Zambia commits to increasing access to justice, promoting human rights, providing appropriate infrastructure for the judiciary, strengthening the legal aid system, developing human and technical capacity, and modernising the judicial system. These are critical to advancing the rule of law, and the ultimate realisation of sustainable development—the broader details of which are outlined in the Eighth National Development Plan, which sets out Zambia's strategic direction, development priorities, and implementation strategies for the period 2022 to 2026.

Chairperson

Zambia's commitment to the strengthening of the rule of law and human rights is also evidenced by the decision of the Government in September this year to accede to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the establishment of the African Court on Human and People's Rights. This will ensure greater responsibility and accountability by the State for any action taken to respect and protect human rights both in Zambia and throughout the African continent.

My delegation takes note with interest of the Secretary-General's report, which highlights his determination to accelerate action to combat corruption, effectively address existing challenges, and implement measures to prevent the scourge. We welcome the

ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation and the UN's common position on global corruption. This viewpoint is consistent with the substance of Zambia's 8th National Development Plan, particularly in the ongoing fight against graft and its offshoots.

Among the Government's efforts are increased budgetary allocations to investigative, prosecutorial, and oversight bodies, as well as the arrest of several high-profile individuals suspected of corruption, alongside the systematic recovery of stolen assets. Further efforts include the establishment in 2022 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Court, a division of the High Court of Zambia tasked with expediting the hearing and determination of economic and financial crimes and corruption cases in the country.

Chairperson

My delegation is mindful about the risk of leaving behind certain segments of the population, particularly children. Accordingly, to ensure security and justice for this critical sector of our society, Zambia enacted the Children's Code Act this year, which among other things, seeks to provide certain protections to children who are found to be in conflict with the law. It seeks to keep children safe from violence and to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation. The Children's Code Act is a significant milestone for Zambia as it has domesticated international instruments relating to the rights of the

child. Furthermore, it demonstrates Zambia's commitment to ensuring the protection of children's rights.

Chairperson

At the regional and sub-regional levels, Zambia continues to advocate for and participate in initiatives that seek to entrench and safeguard the rule of law, accountability, transparency, democratic tenets, and peace and security on the African continent through its membership in various intergovernmental bodies. We are convinced that unwavering adherence to the principle of the rule of law is a prerequisite for peace and security, and, more importantly, for sustainable development for all in Africa.

Chairperson

As I conclude, let me assure you that Zambia remains committed to working with all like-minded Member States of our United Nations to further strengthen the principle of the rule of law around the world for the benefit of current and future generations. Let us all work towards that goal.

I thank you.