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**STATEMENT BY  
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AGREEMENTS  
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
ON  
AGENDA ITEM 83 OF THE AGENDA:  
THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
LEVELS  
“USING TECHNOLOGY TO ADVANCE ACCESS TO JUSTICE  
FOR ALL”  
AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE  
DURING THE  
SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York  
18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

**Chairperson,**

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, may I congratulate you and the Bureau on your election. I wish to assure you of Zambia's support throughout the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly.

Zambia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Non – Aligned Movement.

**Chairperson,**

My delegation wishes to express its profound gratitude to the Secretary – General for his report contained in document A/78/184. We note the important role of digital technologies as a means for seeking and obtaining redress and in the promotion of equal access to justice. Zambia also welcomes the Secretary General's New Vision on strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels in a way that, among others, enhances equal access to justice for all.

**Chairperson,**

The disregard for international law, the egregious violations of human rights, inequality and corruption, are but a few of the evils that plague our world today. The rule of law is central to addressing these evils, which, if left unchecked, could result in further conflict, cause untold suffering of the human race and stifle development efforts. The rule of law provides a framework for peaceful resolution of disputes, equal protection of the law and access to justice for all, and in this regard, is fundamental to ensuring peace and security and fostering development.

The critical role that independent judiciaries, play in actively preserving the rule of law, and in particular, ensuring equal access to justice, cannot be overemphasised. It is for this reason that effective discourse surrounding the transformation and development of the justice system cannot be had without reference to equal access to justice. A justice system which does not accord equal access to justice is ineffective, inefficient, unfair, discriminatory and does not redress the plight of victims. It also perpetuates impunity for failure to bring offenders to account.

### **Chairperson,**

Much discussion is currently ongoing around the use of technology to enhance equal access to justice. Technology has been identified as the conduit through which access to justice can be improved, and the inefficiencies of the justice delivery system addressed. Technology enables last mile delivery, and in this regard, minimises the cost of filing documents and the time taken for the exchange of records and information among justice institutions and parties to proceedings. It also reduces the risk of the loss of records, aids the detection of repeat offenders; and enhances mutual legal assistance and extradition.

The provision of direct access made possible by technology, benefits vulnerable communities that do not have access to legal services on account of geographic or socio-economic constraints. Technology also accords an opportunity to individuals who, because of their identity or social status, are likely to be discriminated against, to circumvent individuals who, and institutions which, practise discrimination.

On another front, we need, as an international community, to consider the technological revolution, including the innovations in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI). We are cognisant that Artificial Intelligence is opening new opportunities for human civilization and new frontiers for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which includes enhancing access to Justice through innovative solutions and risk assessment. In this regard, it is important for the global community to cooperate to mitigate the ethical issues and human security risks that AI poses.

**Chairperson,**

It is evident that the convergence of technology and the judicial system is pertinent. This fact is one that the Government of Zambia takes cognisance of. Accordingly, Development Outcome 2 as set out in Zambia’s Eighth National Development Plan 2022 – 2026 aims to “achieve improved rule of law, human rights, and constitutionalism”. In this regard, the Government is strengthening the criminal justice system, through, *inter alia*, the enhancement of equal access to justice and the modernisation of Zambia’s judicial system.

**Chairperson,**

Zambia has embarked on a Case Flow Management System which will greatly enhance the pace at which cases are processed, and disposed of, and which will provide for judicial accountability, by tracking the time-to-trial rate; and by identifying those who are responsible for delays in the administration of justice. The Case

Flow Management System will also better respond to the transnational character of corruption-related offences, expedite asset recovery processes, support extradition, and ensure effective mutual legal assistance. Further, the Judiciary has put in place an electronic record keeping system to enhance equal access to justice and aid the quick disposal of cases.

**Chairperson,**

In conclusion, Zambia takes this opportunity to encourage all delegations to undertake their best efforts to use technology to ensure equal access to justice.

**I thank you.**