

# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT  
TO BE DELIVERED BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY  
THE PRESIDENT, MR. LEVY PATRICK MWANAWASA, SC  
TO THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING  
ON THE  
REVIEW OF THE  
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)  
IN NEW YORK  
ON  
15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2005

MR. PRESIDENT,  
UN SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. KOFI ANAN,  
EXCELLENCIES,  
DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

ALLOW ME ON BEHALF OF THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION  
TO CONGRATULATE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT FOR  
ORGANIZING THIS IMPORTANT HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW OF  
THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS).

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE UNITED NATIONS  
SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HIS TIRELESS EFFORTS TO  
PROVIDE WELL RESEARCHED DOCUMENTS TO MEMBER  
STATES, AND TO HAVE FACILITATED THIS IMPORTANT  
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING.

MR. PRESIDENT,

AT THE DAWN OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM IN THE YEAR 2000, THERE WAS OPTIMISM FOR HUMAN KIND, AS THE HOPE FOR CHANGE TO A MORE DEMOCRATIC AND EQUITABLE WORLD APPEARED VERY PROMISING.

IN 2000, THE OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE GAVE RISE TO A SHARED DESIRE TO RESTRUCTURE THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION (UN). NOW, FIVE YEARS DOWN THE LINE, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS NOT FOUND A COMMON STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED GOALS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

MY DELEGATION CALLS FOR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ACCELERATE GLOBAL EFFORTS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

WE APPLAUD AND SUPPORT RECENT EFFORTS AIMED AT PROVIDING MORE RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT, AMONG WHICH ARE DEBT RELIEF THROUGH THE HIPC INITIATIVE, THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS BY G8 COUNTRIES OF TOTAL DEBT CANCELLATION AND THE EFFORTS BY SOME INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES THAT HAVE MET THE ODA TARGET OF 0.7 PERCENT OF GDP.

MR. PRESIDENT,

LET ME SHARE WITH THIS AUGUST HOUSE ZAMBIA'S POSITION ON THE MDGS. IT IS THE VIEW OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT ALTHOUGH THE RECORD SO FAR INDICATES THAT ZAMBIA HAS NOT MADE MUCH PROGRESS ON ALL THE EIGHT TARGETS, WE HAVE DONE ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT THE TARGET IS ACHIEVABLE.

IN ZAMBIA, WE SEE THE NEXT DECADE AS THE HOUR FOR OUR BREAKTHROUGH. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE PROMISE OF TOTAL DEBT RELIEF ARISING FROM OUR REACHING THE HIPC COMPLETION POINT IN APRIL THIS YEAR. THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS NOW RAISED OUR PROSPECTS OF REACHING PART OF THE MDGS BY 2015.

MR. PRESIDENT,

AS I SPEAK WE ARE PREPARING OUR 5 YEAR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH IS ANCHORED ON INPUTS FROM DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS. WE ARE ALSO WORKING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN LUSAKA TO FIRMLY ANCHOR THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS).

OUR DETERMINATION AND RESOLVE TO SUCCEED IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT IN THE LAST TWO AND HALF YEARS, ZAMBIA HAS REGISTERED POSITIVE GROWTH IN AGRICULTURE. REAL GDP GROWTH IN THE SECTOR WAS 7.5% IN 2004 HAVING INCREASED FROM 4.5% IN 2003

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN THE SOCIAL SECTORS, WE RECORDED SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION WITH INCREASES IN ENROLMENT AT ALL LEVELS. THE SECTOR HOWEVER, STILL FACES CHALLENGES OF INADEQUATE EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THERE HAS BEEN A NOTABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE HEALTH SECTOR. THE BURDEN OF MALARIA, THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF MORTALITY, HAS BEEN REDUCED THROUGH INNOVATIVE AND VIGOROUS HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY PROGRAMMES SUCH AS THE ROLL BACK MALARIA.

HIV/AIDS REMAINS A MAJOR OBSTACLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AS MOST OF OUR HUMAN RESOURCE BASE IS BEING DEPLETED. MY GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN PLACE A MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC AND HAS SCALED UP ITS INTERVENTIONS THROUGH ADVOCACY, COUNSELLING AND ANTI RETROVIRAL THERAPY.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN TERMS OF RESOURCE MOBILIZATION, I AM GLAD TO INFORM YOU THAT ZAMBIA IS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES THAT HAS BENEFITED FROM THE MONTERREY CONSENSUS ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE AGREED WITH OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS ON GOOD AND EFFICIENT AID MODALITIES,

MR. PRESIDENT, MY GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN PLACE PRUDENT FINANCIAL AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURE SYSTEMS THAT WILL ENSURE EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY. MY GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED ZERO TOLERANCE ON CURRUPTION, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE GREATER SUPPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE COLLABORATIVE WORK REQUIRED TO MAKE SUCH A PROGRAMME SUCCEED.

I THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.