



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Envoy says Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights key to saving lives

NEW YORK, Wednesday, September 18, 2013 – Zambia’s permanent representative to the United Nations has called for increased allocation of resources to maternal and child health services to save lives of expectant mothers and infants.

Ambassador Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota said provision of sexual and reproductive health services were cardinal to reduce maternal and infant mortality in Africa.

Dr Kasese-Bota was speaking during a panel discussion organized by the Global Leaders Council and the International Women’s Health Coalition, under the theme: ‘*Women and Reproductive Health in the post-2015 development agenda: supporting the role of African leadership.*’

“Despite all these challenges, Zambia has made tremendous progress to put in place systems, to reduce maternal mortality,” Dr Kasese-Bota said. “We have managed to reduce, significantly, the maternal mortality ratios as well as infant and under-five children’s mortality rates.”

Dr. Kasese-Bota said President Michael Chilufya Sata has placed the highest political will and attention to issues of reproductive health.

“The decentralization of the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child health galvanized the Zambian government response to provide holistic services transcending the wellness of all women and children through multi-disciplinarian service provision in the same ministry,” she said.

Dr. Kasese-Bota said the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were an important platform for attaining development but there was need to accelerate the efforts further and ensure convergence with the post 2015 development agenda.

In terms of the post-2015 development agenda, Dr Kasese-Bota said that sustainable development should encompass the environment, social economic indicators, and economic growth at family level, and include diversion where there is need for change of behavior and practice.

“As we move forward, sexual and reproductive health must be part of the post-2015 development agenda. We cannot define sustainable development agenda without sexual and reproductive health.”

UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, who is former Deputy President of South Africa, called for economic empowerment of women.

Joy Phumaphi, a one-time Minister of Health of Botswana and vice-president of World Bank – who is currently heading the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) and a member of Global Leaders Council – called for protection of women and girls.

Issued by:

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Captions:

Zambia’s permanent representative to the United Nations Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota making a presentation during a panel discussion in New York on Tuesday, September 10, 2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ

Zambia UN Ambassador Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota (left), and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka during a panel discussion in New York on Tuesday, September 10, 2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ

Zambia UN Ambassador Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota (left), and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Global Leaders Council's Joy Phumaphi during a panel discussion in New York on Tuesday, September 10, 2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ