



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022 Tel: +1(212) 888-5770 Fax: +1(212) 888-5213 Email: Zambia@un.int

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

**Women economic empowerment key to curbing gender-based violence, Wina tells
AU/Commonwealth**

New York, Wednesday, March 6, 2013 – Minister of Gender and Child Development Inonge Wina says economic empowerment of women is key to combat violence against women.

Speaking at the African Union-Commonwealth joint meeting on Africa and Small States regional gender in New York on Friday, March 1, 2013, Hon. Ms. Wina expressed concern about the increase in violence against women and called for concerted efforts to eliminate the vice.

“Zambia is very concerned about the escalating cases of violence against women that are being reported in our country every day, “the Minister said. “We have embarked on various strategies of combating violence against women.” Including Zambia’s enactment of the Anti-gender Based Violence Act No.1 of 2011.

She noted that the problem of gender-based violence was because of inequality between men and women, which is perpetuating the vice.

The Minister said poverty in Zambia was negatively impacting on the lives of women hence the high prevalence rate of gender-based violence.

“Economic empowerment of women is one of the areas that the Commonwealth should put emphasis on to combat violence against women. It may not be final solution but will go a long way in empowering women to resist violence against them, as violence against women is a violation of the rights of women, girl and children” Hon. Wina said.

Ms Wina commended the AU strategies proposed on combating violence against women in homes as well as in conflict situations on the continent.

According to the Addis Ababa Declaration of the African Ministerial preparatory meeting for the 57th Session of the CSW, the Ministers committed to themselves to establish, monitor and assess effectiveness of measures to enforce zero tolerance to end violence against women and girls.

“We are determined to ensure that the elimination of VAWG is a priority area of the post-2015 agenda with clear targets and indicators, “the declaration read in part.

The three-day meeting organized by the AU and Commonwealth proceeded the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission on the Status of Women is taking place at United Nations Headquarters in New York between 4 and 15 March 2013 under the theme: “*Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls*”.

Issued by:

CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA (MR.)

First Secretary for Press and Public Relations

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

Mobile: +1(646)240-5430, Email: chibaula@zambiaun.com Website: www.zambiaun.com