



# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

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*Media Statement*

*For Immediate Release*

## **Let's end conflicts in Africa, Lungu tells UNAU summit**

**UNITED NATIONS, New York, Friday, April 26, 2013** – Zambia says successful and effective conflict resolution in Africa should focus on addressing the root causes of wars in formulating strategies for peaceful resolution, prevention and interventions.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday during the thematic debate on “*Peaceful Resolution of Conflict in Africa*” organized by the UN and the African Union (AU), Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Effron Lungu said mediation of conflict at various levels must focus on creating effective communication channels among the warring parties to cultivate trust and a negotiating spirit among them.

Dr Lungu, who represented President Michael Chilufya Sata at the High-Level debate, informed the 193-UN Member States that the conflict situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has regional dimensions because the people of the Great Lakes Region were socially, economically, culturally and linguistically interlinked.

“Persistence cross border attacks have caused profound regional insecurity and have been a source of political destabilisation for neighbouring countries including Zambia,” the Foreign Minister said. “I would like to welcome the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agreement to stabilise eastern Democratic Republic of Congo between the DRC Government and the regional groupings, at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013.”

He said the agreement, which calls on neighbouring countries to abstain from interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, was important in the peace process in the DRC and “will stabilise the region”.

He said Zambia, as a core member of the International Conference on the Great Lakes and signatory to the pact and the peace process in the DRC, was keen to see peace and security return in eastern DRC.

He called on Africa to build its own capacity to handle mediation, conflict resolution and peace building mechanisms.

According to the Minister, common causes of conflicts in Africa include political corruption, lack of respect for rule of law, unequal distribution of resources such as land and mineral wealth, poverty and human rights violations.

Dr Lungu said Zambia recognises that democracy and good governance offer the best chances for promotion and safe-guarding peace in the region and was a pre-condition for social-economic development.

“In southern Africa, Zambia has and shall continue to play a pioneering and an exemplary role as a beacon of peace and stability in the region through its commitment to the principles of democracy and good governance,” Zambia’s Foreign Minister said.

He noted that political reforms, through democracy and good governance, have continued to steadily characterise the dispensation in many African countries.

Acknowledging the effective role of the AU in conflict resolutions, Dr Lungu commended the AU’s Peace and Security Council for unlocking conflicts in Darfur region of Sudan, the Comoros Islands, Somalia, DRC and Burundi through peacekeeping missions.

“As we celebrate 50 years of the founding of our regional body (Organisation of African Unity now AU), we need to commend ourselves as a continent for the political independence and stability we have thus so far achieved. As a continent we overcame colonialism and fought for the political independence of our respective countries,” Dr Lungu said.

The Minister called for greater cooperation between the UN and AU in conflict prevention, mediation, and peacekeeping missions.

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Issued by:

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**Captions:**

1. Zambia's Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Efron Lungu addressing the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, April 25, 2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ

2. Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Efron Lungu (right) and Zambia's Ambassador to the UN Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota in the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday April 25, 2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ

3. Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Efron Lungu and the Zambian delegation in the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, April 25, 2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ

4. Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Efron Lungu in the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, April 25, 2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ