



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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*Media Statement*

*For Immediate Release*

**Let's have Zero preventable deaths of women and children – Zambia**

**NEW YORK, Monday, September 16, 2013** – Zambia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations has proposed a six-point action plan to reduce preventable deaths of mothers and children.

Ambassador Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota was speaking when she co-chaired the briefing to UN Member States on the global progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), focusing on women's and children's health under the *Every Woman Every Child* initiative spearheaded by the Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency, Mr Ban Ki-Moon.

Dr Kasese-Bota said there was need to support innovations in developing and delivery of health products and interventions.

She cited the need for accelerated research and technological transformation. According to the Zambian Ambassador, UN member states should enhance capacity of local people to conduct research, including expedited research for local pharmacological drugs.

"We should harvest best practices from countries that have demonstrable best outcome indicators for maternal and child health," Ambassador Kasese-Bota said. "We should look at what these countries did to reduce fatalities from the 19<sup>th</sup> century numbers. We must harvest that which produces a sufficient effect of the desirable outcome. The focus on simple and affordable interventions has taken us to where we are, but clearly it's not enough to get us to zero deaths. "

She proposed the enhancement of capacity to diagnose diseases through

appropriate tests and laboratory means, and the need for infrastructure development.

“There is need to have all levels of health care infrastructure which are readily accessible to all,” the Zambian envoy said. “With less than 900 days before the MDG target deadline, it is crucial to harness meaningful and strategic partnerships for health and development which brings an added advantage of comprehensive, and integrated approach to women and children’s wellness and wellbeing.”

Dr Kasese-Bota co-chaired the briefing with His Excellency Mr Marten Grunditz, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN and His Excellency Dr Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN.

Mr Ban launched *Every Woman Every Child* during the UN MDGs Summit in September 2010 focused on saving the lives of 16 million women and children by 2015. The *Every Woman Every Child* is a global movement that mobilises and intensifies international and national action by governments, multilaterals, the private sector and civil society to address the major health challenges facing women and children around the world.

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*Issued by:*

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