



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

36-year-old Serbian Minister elected UN General Assembly President

NEWYORK, Friday, June 8, 2012 - The United Nations General Assembly on Friday elected 36-year-old Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic as President for the 67th Session of the General Assembly beginning mid September for one year.

During the elections in the General Assembly Hall, Mr Jeremic got 99 votes ahead of his sole rival Lithuania's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Dalius Cekuolis who got 85 votes out of 185 valid votes cast.

One hundred and ninety (190) ballots were lodged but five were invalid. One was absent. The UN has 193 member states.

In his acceptance speech, President-elect Jeremic thanked the UN member states that supported his candidature and voted for him.

“We are a small developing country that belongs to no military alliance or political union. It is therefore truly honouring to have received the confidence of so many nations from all over the world to preside over the main deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations,” Mr Jeremic said in his address to the General Assembly.

Mr Jeremić proposed that the theme of the high-level debate at the start of the 67th session of the General Assembly in September be about the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

Born in July 1975, Mr Jeremic is a graduate of the University of Cambridge in UK and received a Master degree in Public Administration from Harvard University in the USA, according to the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Jeremić has been Foreign Affairs Minister since May 15, 2007.

Zambia's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ms Sheila Mweemba, who led the Zambian delegation to the voting session, met Mr Jeremić and congratulated him.

The General Assembly provides a forum for multilateral discussion of international issues and it meets in regular session intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.

Issued by:

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