



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Zambia vows to eliminate early marriages, child abuse

NEW YORK, Friday, October 18, 2013 – The Zambian Government has vowed to eliminate early marriages and violence against children.

Ministry of Gender and Child Development permanent secretary Anne Sinyangwe told the Third Committee of the United Nations, which was discussing the ‘*Promotion and protection of the rights of children*’ on Friday in New York, that Zambia like many other countries has high prevalence of early and child marriages.

She said the Government of Zambia recognises child and early marriages as an obstacle for children and young women to obtain full productivity as adults.

“As the Government of Zambia promotes rights of children, including advancing the well-being of girl child, it has vowed to stem out the scourge of child and early marriages,” she said. “Zambia looks forward to having the component of children’s rights in all spheres of sustainable development with a strengthened position within the post 2015 development agenda.”

The Permanent Secretary said the Government of Zambia was committed to ensuring that children were in a safe and free environment.

Ms Sinyangwe said all forms of violence against children should be eliminated.

“I call for greater international cooperation and partnerships for the promotion and protection of the rights of children,” she said.

According to the permanent secretary, mainstreaming disability in policy and programmes was cardinal and integral to children’s rights.

Ms Sinyangwe said the Government of Zambia has enacted legislation to ensure that all children with disabilities enjoy their human rights and other fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.

Issued by:

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