

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. DR. MWABA KASESE-BOTA AMBASSADOR
AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

NEW YORK OCTOBER 10, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I wish to join others in congratulating you for assuming the Chairmanship of the Second Committee. Zambia pledges its support to you and your bureau in your work during this session.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Algeria on behalf of the G77, Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of the Landlocked Developing Countries, Benin on behalf of the Least Developed Countries and Cameroon on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman

The Second Committee meets yet again, at a time when the effects of the world financial and economic crisis continue to be felt in our countries, especially in the social sectors which has resulted in high unemployment levels and the inability of Governments to adequately finance programmes such as education, health as well as inabilities to provide other social amenities for the majority of the people.

Globally, the food crisis persists with continuing food insecurity, the energy crisis and the challenges posed by climate change to developing countries abound. There is need therefore, for the world inter-connected through shared challenges to come together and provide an urgent and effective response to the global economic crisis.

Mr. Chairman

I wish to reiterate my government's gratitude to the work of the United Nations Community that came together through the Millennium Declaration and enthusiastically adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Member states have made tremendous progress in trying to reach the set targets amid

various challenges of inadequate financing, insufficient technological capacities to mention a few. With only a few years before the target date of 2015, most countries, especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including my own country, Zambia, are not on track to achieve most of the MDGs. Nonetheless, Zambia is still committed to attaining the set goals.

Mr. Chairman

Poverty is so endemic worldwide and my own country is no exception. As at 2010, poverty levels stood at 60.5% while extreme poverty stood at 42.3% against the target of 22.3%. This is despite the 2011 re-classification of Zambia as a low middle income country by the Bretton Woods Institutions. The re-classification was based on high copper prices and improved GDP and a constant growth rate of 6% or higher for a period of over ten years.

While the macroeconomic stability has contributed significantly to sustained strong performance of the national economy, the pace of progress on poverty reduction has lagged behind. This is because the growth has not been broadened, and mainly resulted from capital intensive sectors with limited impact on the poorest in society. The lack of inclusive growth lies in the under performance of the agriculture sector which is linked to value addition as a factor of technological capacitation as well as access to global markets. The agricultural sector is labour intensive and employs most of the rural people.

Mr. Chairman

The lack of attainment of the MDGs has generated a lot of debate, both at national and international levels on the economic models that are currently being pursued, leading to a lot of interest concerning the post 2015 Development Agenda vis a vis the MDGs.

It is for this reason that we, as developing countries in collaboration with our cooperating partners should work relentlessly in a coherent manner to ensure that the post-2015 Development Agenda takes account of successes, concerns and challenges of MDGs and builds upon them.

Mr. Chairman

I wish to commend the Secretary General for appointing the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons to advise him on the post 2015 UN Development Agenda. We look forward to the report of the panel that will be submitted to the Secretary

General in the first half of 2013. We also hope that the Committee that will be established to come up with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as contained in the Rio + 20 outcome document will build on the MDGs since these goals will be part of the post 2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. Chairman

Zambia reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action that was adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in May 2011 by integrating its provisions into national policies and development frameworks. This is in line with Zambia's development aspiration which places emphasis on infrastructure and human development.

Mr. Chairman

I also wish to reaffirm the importance of reforming the multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and IMF, including the United Nations in order to better serve humanity. The systemic problems facing us will only be resolved through the reform of the global financial system and architecture. In addition, the Bretton Woods Institutions should focus and encourage the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which have a greater impact on the lives of ordinary people in any country.

Mr. Chairman

There is also need to reform the United Nations into a more effective institution that responds to the developmental needs of member states. However, the global economic governance role of the UN can only be performed with added political will of all Member States to commit to the UN processes, multilateralism and to its underlying values.

I therefore urge all Member States to commit to working in solidarity on coordinated and comprehensive global responses to global economic governance issues and to undertaking actions aimed at strengthening the role of the United Nations Development System in responding to global crises and their impact on development.

Mr. Chairman,

I call upon All Member States to honour all commitments made, including those pertaining to Official Development Assistance. The multilateral trading system should be more equitable in order for developing countries to equally benefit from global trade. We therefore must make progress on the Doha Development

Round of Trade negotiations that have remained in a stalemate. Furthermore, the call by the 2010 Millennium Development Goal Summit for all developed countries to exempt Least Developed Countries (LDCs) from duties and quotas by 2015 should be honoured.

I also wish to call for the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund and ensure ready and equitable access to the fund for developing countries so as to enhance the development of sustainable energy.

Mr. Chairman

Please allow me to conclude by stating that Zambia will be co-hosting with Zimbabwe the 20th General Assembly of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation in August 2013. I therefore, extend an invitation to all Member States to come and explore the natural beauty of Zambia including the mighty Victoria Falls!

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.