



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT (1)

BY

**H.E. DR. MWABA P. KASESE-BOTA
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP (OWG)
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)
ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA GROUP
17TH – 19TH JUNE 2013**

New York
17 June 2013

First Statement

STATEMENT FOR THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE OWG ON SDGS FROM 17TH -19TH JUNE, 2013 ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA GROUP TO BE DELIVERED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZAMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS H.E. DR. MWABA P. KASESE- BOTA.

Co Chair,

I wish to thank you for giving me the floor to make this statement on behalf of my country, Zambia and on behalf of Zimbabwe and the Southern African Group. I will speak on the important topics of Employment and Decent work, Social Protection, Youth, Education and Culture. I wish to align this statement to the statements that were delivered by the Permanent Representative of Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China, the representative of Djibouti on behalf of Africa group, as well as the Ambassador of Benin on behalf of the LDCs.

I wish to thank the Co chairs for their continued leadership. I also wish to recognise and thank the distinguished presenters for yesterday's presentation on the Report of the High level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post -2015 Development Agenda and the presenters on the TST briefs which provided some insight into the work of this session of the open working group.

Co Chair,

Employment, Social Protection, Youth, Education and Culture are important and very fundamental to Sustainable Development, and its achievement there of.

Co Chair,

As we have repeatedly expressed in the post 2015 discourse, the Millennium Development Goals which mainly were draped in the social and human development concerns have set out some very important trajectory for success of the SDGs. The themes we discuss today were part of the MDGs expressly as goals or as tacit targets and embodied through goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The various and different approaches that countries have undertaken in the MDG and the unlikelihood of many countries to meet the set targets calls therefore, for stronger systemic and policy strategies that will advance not just the thematic issues but strategies that ensures we attain sustainable development.

Co chair

Coming to the question of employment and decent work, the first MDG contains a clear target and the report on progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa indicates a rise in the unemployed workforce since 2008, a situation which need urgent redress and the SDGs should therefore embrace employment and decent work especially for women and young people in both urban and rural communities. Employment and decent work will other than improving income status of people also impacts many other aspects of development including linking macroeconomic strategies to inclusive and equitable social development and growth.

The post 2015 Development Agenda should address the key constraint of increasing quality of human capital through capacity improvement for human skills development especially for the youth and women.

Co Chairs,

Education is the cornerstone of any nations sustainable development. Education does not just prepare one for future job opportunities but contributes significantly to poverty reduction and well being of the people and their families. Our region therefore recognises the enhanced potential of education for economic growth, improved health indicators, increased opportunity for employment, and resilient and stable societies.

While the Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3 have resulted in improvements of school enrolments with Africa seeing more than two thirds of children enrolled in primary schools in 2010 than in 1999), the impressive net enrolments do not match with completion rates. MDG 2 focused on increasing numbers within the same and existing infrastructure and more less the same levels of teachers hence increasing the pupil teacher ratio, and sometimes using untrained teachers as in community and village schools, a situation which seriously compromised quality of education. My region wants to emphasise the need for SDGs to focus on Early Childhood Education, Primary, secondary or high school and tertiary education including skills training and ensuring universality of such education to all.

Co Chair,

In order to achieve this, a deliberate policy outcome to include all levels of education, an increase in resources to education, a shift in programming and implementation modalities to ensure corresponding infrastructure development and supportive services to improve quality, that is to areas such as teachers training, curriculum development and school requisites or learning aids provision should be set up.

In this regard my region supports the need to have an SDG on education and skills development for all, which should capture all the MDGs targets and unfinished business while at the same time addressing the gaps and inter-linkages with other important sector goals. Our region has prioritised Education and training as a priority and has in place a SADC protocol for member states that includes the following specific aspects; Policy for education and training; Basic education; Intermediate education and training; Higher education; Distance education; Training fund; Research and development; Lifelong education and training; and Publishing and library resources. My delegation also prioritises early childhood development and learning.

With regard to culture, my delegation is of the view that culture is an important component that needs attention in the SDGs framework in order to strengthen its role and creativity in society and to promote protection, promotion and transmission of heritage.

Co Chairs

Social Protection is another very important aspect in the broader context of poverty eradication, social justice and inclusiveness. Social protection policies and programs are designed to diminish exposure to risks and are integral to enhancing individuals economic productivity.

Social Protection will play a key role in the post 2015 development agenda with emphasis on sustainable and environmentally friendly economic development and poverty reduction. Social protection is central for and cuts across all the three pillars of sustainable development. As the Social Protection parameters are likely to fall in all the three pillar goals, my delegation feels that having it as a stand alone goal will duplicate effort but should

have it embodied within the framework of the SDGs, with each goal having a possible social protection index/analysis.

I thank you.



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Second Statement

STATEMENT FOR THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE OWG ON SDGS FROM 17TH -19TH JUNE, 2013 ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA GROUP TO BE DELIVERED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZAMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS H.E. DR. MWABA P. KASESE- BOTA.

Co Chair,

I wish to thank you again for giving me the floor to make an intervention on the important topics of Health and Population dynamics. I wish to align this statement to the statements delivered by the Ambassador (Permanent Representative) of Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China, the Ambassador of Djibouti on behalf of Africa group, as well as the Ambassador of Benin on behalf of the LDCs. I am delivering this statement on behalf of Zambia, Zimbabwe and the Southern African region.

Co Chair,

Health is central to all the three dimensions of Sustainable Development in view of both the contributions to development as well as the impact of development on health. Because of this centrality, the Millennium Declaration had 3 of the MDGs (4, 5 and 6) directly relate to improvements of health outcomes.

Africa has made progress with all the health related goals, with infant mortality rate reducing from 174 deaths per 1,000 live births to 121 in 2010 and 2.3 percent reduction between the period 1990 and 2010. The reductions are good but not enough to reach the 2015 targets.

Both communicable and non-communicable diseases continue to impact the disease burden in Africa. HIV and AIDS, Malaria and TB continue to be among

the leading mortality drivers. In the MDGs process, the priority areas have been focused on addressing the leading causes of death due to the disease burden mainly from Malaria, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

Maternal mortality and Under 5 mortality rates continue to be the best indicators of health systems performances. Our take is that they should still be part of the SDGs and more so to give prominence. We also need to have some targets for non-communicable and communicable diseases, as well as give focus to access, improving the determinants of good health and to key interventions.

As much as we define and set the targets, there is an equal need to exemplify the need for infrastructure necessary to bring about the desired goals, and to set standards of care which reflect that actual meaning of standard, applicable to all and not in line with just the best of care in a given enclave and pay attention to quality. The SDG on health should go beyond the MDG and focus on quality of health care for all with increased technological transfer and implementation.

Co Chair,

In Zambia and the Southern African region in general, one of the main challenges lies in achieving the demographic dividend. The demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that results from a decline in a country's mortality and fertility and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. Further, the advantages of large but health and skilled population increases productivity. Good reproductive and family planning services with people having fewer children also promotes longevity.

The other implication of reduced mortality and fertility is that with fewer births each year, a country's young dependent population grows smaller in relation to the working-age population and subsequently, with fewer people to support, a country has a window of opportunity for rapid economic growth if the right social and economic policies developed and investments made.

Co Chair,

The rapid growth of populations when well managed could be an enabler of social economic development. In short, a well-planned population increase would have a positive impact on productivity, economic gains resulting in turn to more money going to health services and ultimately a decline in mortality.

Therefore the priority to focus on investing in human capital to realise benefits of demographic transitions is of primary importance as well as providing for the growth in population for sustainable cities should be considered and linked to the SDGs.

I thank you