



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT (2)

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

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