

INTERVENTION BY THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION ON THE DISCUSSION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT DURING THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

I wish to thank you for according me time to contribute to the discussion on the review of progress made so far in the area of Waste Management. The Zambian delegation wishes to associate itself with the statements made by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the G77 and China.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for the Reports that have been prepared for the meeting which the delegation found extremely useful.

Mr. Chairman,

Waste management poses many challenges around the globe including my country Zambia.

The main challenges that Zambia faces in waste management are :

- Insufficient capacity for the recovery and recycling of various types of waste streams such as plastics;
- Insufficient capacity and equipment for municipalities to deal with the collection, transportation and disposal of waste; and
- Inadequate awareness on sound management of waste and their impact on human health and the environment.

It is a well known fact that, as cities grow economically, business activity and consumption patterns drive up solid waste quantities. At the same time, increased traffic congestion adversely affects the productivity of the solid waste fleet. Productivity loss is exacerbated by longer hauls required of the fleet, as suitable land for disposal is pushed further away from urban centers. The challenge is therefore, to expand services to a rapidly growing urban population in the midst of other equally competing demands of Government and local authorities.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia is one of the most urbanised countries in Africa . Zambia's overall goal of solid waste management is to collect and dispose of wastes generated by the population in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.

The Zambian government is making strides in waste management such as the building of an engineered landfill in Lusaka , the Capital City. This has resulted in reduced air and ground water pollution arising from waste.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to reaffirm Zambia's commitment to most of the main international conventions on waste management . To enhance our efforts to effectively manage waste from plastic packaging , the country is developing legislation called Extended Producer Responsibility, that is aimed at discouraging the production of thin plastic packaging and encourage recycling.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia has gone further in partnering with the private sector and community based organizations in waste management. A franchise system has been implemented in Lusaka and towns in the Copperbelt province or state, that encourages the participation of the private sector in waste collection. This has resulted in increased waste collected and disposed and consequently to cleaner cities.

Zambia is implementing the Keep Zambia Clean and Healthy campaign as a way of strengthening information dissemination and awareness creation among members of the public.

Mr. Chairman,

Like many developmental challenges, waste management will require the co-operation and support of all stake holders at national , regional and international levels.

I thank you.