



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

Please check against delivery

STATEMENT

BY

**DR. MWABA P. KASESE- BOTA (MRS)
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**"NEEDS OF COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS, AFRICAN COUNTRIES,
LDCS, LLDCS, AND SIDS AS WELL AS SPECIFIC CHALLENGES FACING
THE MIDDLE- INCOME COUNTRIES"**

AT THE

SIXTH SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SDGS

NEW YORK
9TH -13TH NOVEMBER, 2013

Mr. Co- Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Southern Africa group of countries namely; Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zimbabwe and my own Country Zambia as a contribution on this important thematic area.

My delegation aligns this statement with the statements made on behalf of the G77 and China, Africa Group, the LDCs and LLDCs by Fiji, The Gambia, Benin and Lao, respectively. I also wish to thank the Panelists for their useful presentations.

Mr. Co-Chair

Our region acknowledges the varied progress made by African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and MICs, in pursuant of development and achievement of Internationally Agreed Development Goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Notwithstanding, countries in special situations face significant challenges, although each category faces unique circumstances and concerns that the sustainable development goals should address. The challenges and the needs of these countries have been reflected prominently in the different global frameworks such as the MDGs, Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), Almaty Programme of Action and the Rio+20 Outcome Document, among others.

Addressing the vulnerabilities of these countries requires concerted efforts and support by the international community to bring about necessary transformation and achieve sustainable development. It is in this regard, that the international community initiatives and calls for increased investment to improve the efficiency in delivery of services, technology and innovation to support genuine and pro-poor growth in affected countries in special situations, must be considered.

Mr. Co-Chair

Two major considerations must therefore, be made for these countries. Firstly, the similar challenge of poverty eradication should be an overarching sustainable development goal that must have specific targets for these special groups of countries. Secondly, in the Means of Implementation, careful consideration of the category needs and specific targets should be addressed for effectiveness and meaningful sustainable development so that no one is left behind.

Mr. Co-Chair,

Our region underscores the importance of messages in various UN and African Union reports indicating the special needs that Africa has, and the challenges faced in maintaining the robust growth of 6 percent achieved over the last decade. While the economic performance and business climate has improved, the Continent still lags behind on several development aspects, making the formulation of SDGs particularly important.

Mr. Co-Chair

We wish to support the views that the sustainable development goals and priorities should address important issues such as; inclusive and equitable economic growth and development that is underpinned by accelerated investment in infrastructure, energy and industrial development, value addition, research, innovation, technology development and accelerated factor productivity. Hence, the constraints to economic growth and other structural impediments that make LDCs and LLDCs lag behind in development need to be fully addressed. On the part of the countries in special situations, structural reforms to enhance productive capacities and unlock domestic potential for sustainable and inclusive growth should be accelerated for wealth and employment creation as well as diversification of their economies in order to be competitive.

Further, human and social development that addresses health, education and skills development and human capacity to innovate, should be complimented by genuine partnership for technological transfer that is adaptive, appropriate, environmentally friendly and affordable. Southern Africa supports the view that special attention and consideration be accorded in an equitable manner in the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicator system as well as in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. Co-Chair

Although Landlocked Developing Countries face special challenges that are linked to their geography, particularly when it comes to international trade, they play an important role in ensuring safe transiting of goods. In this respect, the LLDCs must also be recognised as important transit countries. Improving transport infrastructure to reduce the high cost of transport and transaction costs associated with remoteness to the major international markets will go a long way in addressing the special challenges faced by LLDCs. The 2014 Review of the Almaty Programme of Action is therefore, very important as it should address the challenges being encountered by this group of countries.

Mr. Co-Chair,

Our region supports the architecture for development in the "Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA 2011-2020)" whose overarching goal is not only increasing and sustaining high levels of economic growth, but also making sustainable progress in human and social development. In addition, the special focus on infrastructure and human development as gateways to accelerated and sustained economic growth is paramount for achieving sustainable development.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the need for transformative changes and meaningful integration of countries with special situations into the global trading system through enhanced management and implementation of support mechanisms for improving and increasing investment in projects and programmes at the national level.

I thank you.