



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

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

ON

**HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL
GOVERNANCE**

AT THE

SIXTH SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SDGS

NEW YORK
9TH -13TH NOVEMBER, 2013

Mr. Co-Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor to speak on these important matters.

I wish to make 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.

The Group aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China and The Gambia on behalf of the African Group.

I wish to thank Dr. Navanethem Pillay ,UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for the presentation.

Matters of Human rights are regarded mostly as an end to development rather than a means in so far as they address the fundamental freedoms of humanity. Our region is of the view that, to a larger extent, the social-economic development is impacted by matters of human rights with respect to standards and priority setting at the international, national and local levels. We therefore, believe that it is cardinal for the international community to ensure the realisation of a world in which the important rights of human beings are protected and promoted as enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and assure the quality of their lives in conformity with the legal provisions, as well as with international law, conventions and treaties.

Mr. Co-Chair,

At the Rio+20 Conference, it was indicated that SDGs should, among other things, be consistent with international law that supports the international human rights standards. Nevertheless, our region is not of the view that human rights should be a stand-alone goal for sustainable development. Rather, it should be considered a crosscutting issue that affects sustainable development. I wish to emphasise here that it has now become clearer that the world urgently needs a framework for sustainable development that addresses the challenges of human rights as well as that of ending poverty and increasing social inclusion.

Mr. Co-Chair,

It is a known fact that the world is far from attaining the global commitment under Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that *"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of*

himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services." There is therefore need to envision a human rights perspective that will ensure that poverty is eradicated as a matter of justice and obligation, and not only a policy option.

As a region, we support the view that it should be a principle for the Sustainable Development Goals to be consistent with the human rights standards as recognised in international law. To this end, I wish to state that in order to ensure equity of approach everywhere, and regardless of the levels of a country's development, basic human needs should be met by standard solutions that work well in the provision of shelter, health services, food, education, water and sanitation, energy, and jobs, for the benefit of all. Further, the targets and indicators should resonate with the national legal and policy provisions and must uphold existing human rights standards for economic, social and cultural rights in a manner that ensures a balanced and manageable agenda and approach to development.

Mr. Co-Chair,

I now wish to highlight some important aspects regarding the rights of children and women. In terms of the rights of children, the need to ensure that the development and survival of the children, particularly in the area of education and health cannot be over-emphasised as these are the custodians of the future. With regards to the rights of women, it goes without saying that women are the ones mostly affected by poverty, lack of access to better health and economic empowerment. Therefore, the gender dimension should be regarded as an important cross-cutting issue in all the three aspects of sustainable development.

Mr. Co-Chair,

It has been reported that the Post-2015 consultations have confirmed that aspects of human rights-based development (including civil and political rights) are adequately measurable for the purposes of a global development agenda. I wish to state here that, while it is true that human rights standards emphasise availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability and quality of social services, as well as specific indicators and targets for each relevant goal, there is need to consider the capacities of countries to measure these aspects.

Mr. Co-Chair,

Our region recognises that good governance at national and international levels is critical for advancing sustainable development and global governance. We believe that global governance can play a significant role in spurring the establishment and development of institutional and strategic frameworks for sustainable development, as well as ensuring their effective operationalisation and implementation.

Our region is of the view that at all levels of governance, there is need to ensure that the right to development is respected and upheld. This must include a commitment to the rule of law, human rights, transparency, participation and inclusion. Further, these rights must be accompanied by mutual responsibilities from both the states and its citizenry. It is a universal norm that state power is held in trust for the people, not as a privilege of the state. Therefore, we implore that the global governance dispensation should be redesigned to completely and distinctly include human rights and the right to development. These rights should entitle people to more than just basic needs to cover political participation, justice, peace and good governance.

Mr. Co-Chair,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the need for the SDGs to not only provide for basic human needs, but also ensure essential human rights that create enabling conditions that help individuals realise their potential. The human rights and rights to development approach should not conflict, but rather be complimentary with the societal cultural setting. I also wish to emphasize that we keep to the definition of human rights as is explicitly highlighted in the UDHR and not have divisive semantics introduced which may inhibit consensus.

I thank you.