



Republic of  
**ZAMBIA**



INFORMATION SECTION / PERMANENT MISSION OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HIS HONOUR THE VICE-PRESIDENT  
(LT GEN CHRISTON S TEMBO, MP, GCDS, DFS, FBIM)**

**TO THE**

**TWENTY-FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE OVERALL APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**JUNE 30, 1999  
NEW YORK**

MR. PRESIDENT,  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS,  
DISTINGUISHED HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNFPA,  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,  
DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, AND INDEED ON MY OWN BEHALF, I WISH TO COMMEND THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) IN PARTICULAR, FOR ORGANIZING THIS SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

MR PRESIDENT

ALLOW ME TO JOIN OTHER DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS IN CONGRATULATING YOU ON YOUR DESERVED ELECTION. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU WILL GUIDE THIS ASSEMBLY TO A FRUITFUL CONCLUSION OF ITS WORK.

MR PRESIDENT

LET ME ALLUDE TO THE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAVE PRECEDED THIS SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY OUR EXPERTS WHICH HAVE CULMINATED INTO THIS SESSION SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS MERE SEMANTICS BUT AS BROAD BASED IDEAS ENCOMPASSING THE DIVERSE CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND REGIONAL DIFFERENCES REPRESENTED IN THE LARGE NEGOTIATION GROUPINGS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IT IS NOW FIVE YEARS SINCE SUCH A HIGH-LEVEL GATHERING MET IN CAIRO, EGYPT, TO FORMULATE A 20 YEAR PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. ZAMBIA ACTIVELY, PARTICIPATED AT THAT IMPORTANT CONFERENCE BECAUSE WE **REALISE** THAT POPULATION IS BOTH THE AGENT AND BENEFACOR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

MR. PRESIDENT,

SINCE THE CAIRO SUMMIT, ZAMBIA HAS MADE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. THIS INCLUDES:

- (1) THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY FRAMEWORK TO FOSTER A BROAD-BASED ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIAL DELIVERY MECHANISMS.

- (2) THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POVERTY-REDUCTION FRAMEWORK AND A NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR, NGOS AND CIVIL SOCIETY;
- (3) THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH SECTOR REFORM PROGRAMMES AIMED AT INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES AT COMMUNITY LEVEL;
- (4) INTRODUCTION OF AN INTEGRATED REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH POLICY AND NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY; AND
- (5) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE DATA-MONITORING FRAMEWORK TO PROVIDE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR PROGRAMME FORMULATION AND OVERALL ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT.

MR. PRESIDENT,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

POPULATIONS WITH HIGH GROWTH RATES, DECLINING ECONOMIC OUTPUT, AND A HIGH DEBT BURDEN, CONTINUE TO IMPEDE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ZAMBIA INCLUDED. ZAMBIA'S POPULATION IS CURRENTLY GROWING AT **3.1%**, WHILE THE ECONOMIC OUTPUT HAS REMAINED STAGNANT. THE STOCK OF DEBT AS A RATIO OF EXPORT EARNINGS, HAS CONTINUED TO RISE, RESULTING IN THE **UNSUSTAINABILITY** OF ZAMBIA'S FOREIGN DEBT BURDEN. THIS HAS RESULTED IN OVERALL ECONOMIC DECLINE AND INADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR CAPITAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

MR. PRESIDENT,

HIGH POVERTY LEVELS, WIDESPREAD ILLITERACY, AND INHIBITING CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL VALUE SYSTEMS, CONTINUE TO BE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO ENHANCED POPULATION DEVELOPMENT, IN ZAMBIA. CURRENTLY, THE COUNTRY HAS A HIGH INCIDENCE OF POVERTY, ESTIMATED AT 70% OF WHICH **89%** ARE IN RURAL AREAS. IN ADDITION, 48.3% OF THE POPULATION IS UNDER THE AGE OF 15. THIS, OBVIOUSLY, EXERTS ENORMOUS PRESSURE ON SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE ABILITY OF GOVERNMENT TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

MR. PRESIDENT,

BEING A STABLE AND PEACEFUL COUNTRY, ZAMBIA HAS PROVIDED A NATURAL SANCTUARY FOR DISPLACED PERSONS FLEEING FROM CIVIL STRIFE IN THEIR COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, MY COUNTRY'S INVOLVEMENT IN RESOLVING REGIONAL CONFLICTS, HAS PUT TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON OUR MEAGER RESOURCES.

MR. PRESIDENT,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

DESPITE THESE CONSTRAINTS, ZAMBIA IS FULLY COMMITTED **TO THE** IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY. TO THIS END, ZAMBIA HAS PUT IN PLACE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AIMED AT UP-LIFTING THE LIVES OF ITS PEOPLE. SUCH PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS ARE AIMED AT INCREASING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, GENERATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME. IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF SOCIAL SAFETY-NET SCHEMES HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE CORE-POOR IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.

ZAMBIA SUPPORTS A SUSTAINABLE DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AIMED AT SIGNIFICANT DEBT RELIEF AND CANCELLATION. IN THIS REGARD, I AM MAKING AN EARNEST APPEAL TO DONOR STATES, MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE PRIVATE **SECTOR TO** SUPPORT ZAMBIA AND OTHER DEVELOPING STATES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ERADICATE POVERTY BY DIRECT INVESTMENT, CANCELLATION OF DEBT, AND ENSURING THAT STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMMES ARE HUMANE AND RESPONSIVE TO SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN **ORDER TO** SUCCESSFULLY MITIGATE AGAINST THESE NEGATIVE POPULATION DIMENSIONS AND THEIR MANIFESTATIONS, SUCH AS DISEASE AND POVERTY, WE NEED TO:

- (1) INTRODUCE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION;
- (2) PROMOTE THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND MAINSTREAM GENDER IN ALL ASPECTS OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT;
- (3) PROVIDE ADEQUATE INFORMATION TO COUPLES AND INDIVIDUALS ON THE NEED TO HAVE MANAGEABLE FAMILY SIZES;
- (4) ENHANCE AN INTEGRATED REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM;
- (5) REDUCE THE HIGH RATE OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY BY IMPROVING HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES; AND
- (6) ESTABLISH A NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC.

IN THIS REGARD, ZAMBIA IS REVISING THE NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE EMERGING ISSUES OF HIV/AIDS, ENVIRONMENT, GENDER, AND THE BROADER CONCEPT OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH. ZAMBIA HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED A MONITORING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK COMPRISING AN **ALL-PARTY** PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, GENDER

DIVISION IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND A GENDER FOCAL POINT IN EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION. THIS IS TO ENSURE ADVOCACY AT BOTH POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEVELS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, ZAMBIA IS TO HOST THE ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS AND STDS IN AFRICA (ICASA) IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR TO WHICH I HOPE ALL COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED HERE, WILL ATTEND. I THEREFORE, IN THIS REGARD, RECOGNISE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION THE CIVIL SOCIETY HAS MADE IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POPULATION PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS.

MR. PRESIDENT,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I WOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM MY COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION. INDEED, WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE CAIRO VISION BECOME A REALITY AS WE APPROACH AND ENTER THE NEW MILLENNIUM.

I THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.