



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

Check against delivery

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. MR. LAZAROUS KAPAMBWE
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON AGENDA ITEM 66:

**PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

IN THE

**THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 62ND REGULAR SESSION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**October 19th 2007
New York**

Mr. Chairman,

Since it is the first time that I am taking the floor, in this committee, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr. Chairman and the other members of the bureau for your election and to assure you of our full support and cooperation in achieving the committees' goals in all our deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by saying that my delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and China and Namibia on behalf of SADC. Zambia attaches great importance to this Agenda item which addresses the Rights of the Child. We believe that the promotion and protection of the Rights of the Child will create an ideal situation where children's fundamental rights and freedoms will be fully protected and promoted, as evidenced by my country's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

At this juncture, I would like to highlight what Zambia is doing in addressing the issues on the Rights of the Child. Zambia has a number of constitutional and legislative provisions which protect the rights of children. The Constitution encompasses a Bill of Rights that protects fundamental rights and freedoms of children. In addition to constitutional and legislative protection, there are national policies aimed at improving the welfare and quality of life of children in Zambia, including the National Child policy, the National Youth Policy and National Programme of Action. These form core guidelines for implementing CRC initiatives.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia believes that young people deserve to have power over their own fate. That is why, it took note of the presence of young delegates to the United Nations this year, that represented many countries and spoke on issues that affect the Youth and children under Agenda item 62(b). Most of the youth who spoke expressed concern over the slow progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals which have reached the half way point between the year of adoption and that of implementing.

Mr. Chairman,

In promoting child healthy, Zambia has improved access to basic rural health services and has established home based care programmes whose efforts are being complimented by the Civil Society. Through the Ministry of Health, the government further put in place an Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) to improve the care of children under five, in a holistic manner. In addition, adolescent reproductive health services targeting the youth

between the ages of 10 and 19 have become priorities in the health and welfare sectors. Efforts are being made to protect young people from early pregnancies and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

At this point, I would like to mention that Zambia is faced with a lot of challenges since most rural areas depend on services offered in clinics in Urban areas. In this regard, more resources are therefore needed in order to build adequate rural clinics to decongest clinics in urban areas. My country is also faced with the problem of brain drain of Zambian doctors and nurses that have migrated to developed countries. To this effect, Efforts are being made by Zambia to improve the conditions of services for health personnel in order to redress the situation.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to quality education, Zambia has established the National Education Policy document which sets the general principles of education that include Liberalization, Decentralization, Equality and Equity, Quality, Partnerships and Accountability. Based on these principles, the goal of the education system in Zambia is to ensure that every child has access to free basic education.

Under the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Zambia is supporting over 22,000 orphans and vulnerable children, 1,654 children living with HIV and AIDS. Furthermore it is also supporting Street Children Centers by way of grants. In this regard, My government acknowledges that in spite of efforts taken to achieve reforms in the education sector, there is a need to prioritize interventions in order to increase enrolment of children and to safeguard that those in schools remain and complete their education.

Mr. Chairman,

In 2000, Zambia launched the International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPECL) to protect children against abuse, exploitation and violence. The IPECL programme has contributed to the progressive elimination of exploitative child labour in the country by the provision of educational and economic alternatives for the working children. In terms of progress on the localization of the IPEC labour programme, a National Plan of Action (NPA) was prepared and a National Steering Committee that directs and monitors the implementation of the National Programme on Child Labour has been put in place. Furthermore, Zambia has recognized Convention No. 182 concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour as part of the national plan of action.

With regard to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Zambia in line with the commitment of member states of the UN prohibits sexual exploitation and

sexual abuse of children. To this effect, government in partnership with the Civil Society adopted specific measures that are addressing sexual exploitation and abuse and have presented to Parliament the Child Rights Domestic Bill for legislation in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Bill seeks to, among other things provide a comprehensive framework for the protection of the rights of the child and to protect the girl child from sexual abuse, trafficking, sexual exploitation and forced labour. In order to further mitigate the effects of Child Sexual Exploitation and violence, One Stop Centers have been established across the country which provide an integrated service to victims of sexual exploitation including counseling, treatment for injuries, investigations and prosecution.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia has declared HIV/AIDS as a national crisis. In this regard, combating HIV in young people has been top on Zambia's agenda. This has led to strengthening of the national capacity to stop the spread of AIDS through advocacy, prevention of HIV infections in young people, prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT), and improvement of access to voluntary testing and drug treatment programmes. Zambia has given greater attention to the situation of children who are themselves infected with HIV. Programmes aimed at reducing transmission of the virus from mother to child have been introduced and HIV counseling in antenatal centers has also become routine. Despite these and other interventions, it is estimated that about 90,000 children are living with HIV in Zambia. Of great importance in the administration of ARV therapy is the training in the clinical management of HIV/AIDS counselors, which in the past has been oriented towards adult care and little information on the needs of children.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to mention that although there has been some progress in realizing the commitments set in the final document of the Twenty Seventh Special Session on the General Assembly and the United Nations Millenium Declaration and the Millenium Development Goals, many of the goals have not been fulfilled. Member states will, during the High-Level plenary meeting in December, look at the progress made in the five years since the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action for "A World Fit for Children", and assess the achievements, challenges and what remains to be done.

We owe it to the children to ensure that we galvanize all our efforts to truly make a difference to their lives so they too can enjoy a life filled with promise and prosperity - "A World Fit for Children"

I thank you.