



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 98:
THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT**

**NEW YORK
OCTOBER 2017**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation appreciates this opportunity to contribute to the debate on this important agenda item. Science and technology are increasingly being recognized as the major drivers of the evolving global economy, and as the main factors of production alongside land, labour and capital. Advancements in science and technology have made it easier and quicker to access, process and distribute resources. It has also enabled countries meet security, socio-economic, health, education, infrastructure and communication needs. In this regard, Zambia reaffirms its commitment to maintain and encourage progress in scientific and technological developments for both military and civilian applications.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation remains cognisant that advancements made in science and technology have also provided opportunities for criminal activities and other purposes inconsistent with the maintenance of international security. In particular, the increased use of information and communication technology, through the use of the internet, has resulted in increased crimes such as attacks on computer systems of institutions and terrorism related activities.

In addition, the use of information communication technology allows criminal and terrorist syndicates to cross space barriers of each State to commit crimes without being in close proximity, making it difficult to identify the offenders and locate the crime scene with traditional investigation tools.

Technological advancement has facilitated increasing inter-linkages between infrastructures such as telecommunication, banking, transport and water systems, both state and private, making the infrastructures vulnerable to physical and cyber-attacks, and requiring enhanced domestic and international security measures.

The Zambian Government is facing challenges in fighting cybercrime and other criminal activities related to technology, as new technologies have evolved and become widely available so rapidly that policies and laws to safeguard against the abuse of these technologies cannot keep up with the pace. In this connection, differences in legal systems and insufficient international cooperation have hampered investigation and prosecution of technology related crimes.

In this regard, the Zambian Government has taken various measures to combat cyber and other technological crime. These include:-

- (a) Regulation of internet cafes and service providers through the Zambia Information Communication and Technology Authority;
- (b) Creation of emergency response teams, specialized units and inter-institution platforms for law enforcement, including the military, academic and private sector; and
- (c) Harnessing opportunities offered by information and communication technology for law enforcement, such as electronic surveillance and monitoring systems to detect suspicious financial transactions and track internet protocol addresses linked to inimical activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite government efforts to combat security threats arising from information technology and other scientific developments, investigating and prosecuting such crimes remains a challenge as it requires new skills and procedural tools such as capacity to collect and analyse digital evidence, and to use that evidence in criminal proceedings, while remaining conscious of the underlying importance of protecting privacy, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Zambia is of the view that cyber-crime and other technology related crimes, could only be combated successfully by means of international cooperation, and mutual legal assistance through law enforcement.

Mr. Chairman,

The above notwithstanding, science and technology continue to play a role in enhancing international security and disarmament efforts by developing tools to monitor compliance by States in their disarmament obligations.

The inter-linkage between science and technological developments of various States can help create understanding and cooperation among States, on technical and policy issues, including on nuclear arms control and disarmament.

Zambia, therefore, calls for international cooperation in the scientific and technological fields so as to assist in the improvement of the physical security and monitoring of nuclear facilities and materials, as well as development of nuclear arms control technologies.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Zambia wishes to state that although civilian application of scientific and technological advancement is necessary for economic and social development, it can have negative implications on international security and disarmament efforts, as it can lead to the advancement in weapons development, particularly Weapons of Mass Destruction. It is, therefore, the view of Zambia that the global community must endeavour to cooperate in ensuring that scientific and technological advancements are tailored to benefit and not destroy mankind.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.