



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

**FIRST COMMITTEE GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL
DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS**

**NEW YORK
13 OCTOBER 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia takes the honour to congratulate you, Ambassador Karel Van Oosterom, for having been elected as Chairman of the First Committee for this historical 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

My delegation assures you and other Bureau members of its commitment to the works of the Committee and shall render you maximum support during the deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia aligns itself with the statements of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Africa Group on Disarmament, International Peace and Security. My delegation joins all global peace custodians in calling upon all the nuclear armed states to scale down on investing in nuclear weapons advancement. Hopes of achieving universality of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) still appear to be far-fetched as political leaders in nuclear weapons states refer to such weapons as being necessary for their national security, opting for a step by step dismantling of nuclear weapons. There is a need for advancing universality on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and for the political leadership to commit and show solidarity as already established through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At this point, Zambia takes cognizance and gratitude to the President of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft's high intention to support Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda a 'New Commitment to Action' regarding sustainable development; peace and security, human rights and good governance. This 2030 Agenda commitment can only be attained through guaranteed comprehensive disarmament, international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia has always been a strong and committed advocate of general and complete disarmament and reaffirms its commitment to the goal of total

elimination of nuclear weapons and establishment of a nuclear-weapon free world. Considering the devastation that would be caused by any form of detonation of nuclear weapons and noting that there is no competent international capacity to address the resulting catastrophic humanitarian consequences. In this regard, Zambia welcomes the recent global initiative on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons which has brought the much needed energy and impetus to discussions on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia further associates itself with the pledge issued at the Vienna Conference of December, 2014 ‘To Fill the Legal Gap’ for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Zambia recognizes the importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) for its contribution towards global nuclear disarmament. In this regard, Zambia wishes to make use of this opportunity to welcome all member states that have ratified the CTBT and urges the remaining states, especially Annex 2 states whose signatures and ratifications are necessary for entry into force of the treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

The Zambian delegation is concerned with the continued manufacturing of, illicit trade, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons of which scourge Zambia has not been spared.

Zambia being signatory to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which it signed on 25th September 2013, was part of the forty (40) states signatories to the treaty that participated in the works of the First Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty which was held in Cancun, Mexico from 24th to 27th August 2015 and attended by one hundred and twenty (120) states including civil societies.

As provided for by article 18 of the Arms Trade Treaty, Zambia fully supports the adoption of Geneva, Switzerland as the approved Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty. Zambia further endorses the adoption of Mr. Simeon Dumisali Dladla of the Republic of South Africa as the first head of the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty.

In this regard, Zambia remains committed to ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty which came into force on 24th December 2014 after all legal aspects have been fully interpreted.

Zambia further supports the Arms Trade Treaty in establishing of the legally adhered to international trade in conventional arms. My country also pledges to work with all states party to the Arms Trade Treaty in preventing and eradicating illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate my Government's commitment and solidarity to global efforts of complete disarmament in all aspects.

I thank you.