



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022 Tel: +1(212) 888-5770 Fax: +1(212) 888-5213 Email: Zambia@un.int

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

SDGs should create jobs, education and protect culture, says Kasese-Bota

UNITED NATIONS, New York, Wednesday, June 19, 2013 – Zambia’s Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota, has urged UN-Member States to ensure that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) create employment, promote education and protect culture.

Speaking on behalf of the southern African group at the fourth meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at UN Headquarters on Tuesday, Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota said employment, social protection, youths, education and culture are fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development.

“SDGs should embrace employment and decent work especially for women and young people in both urban and rural communities,” she said. “Employment and decent work will other than improving income status of people also impacts many other aspects of development including linking macroeconomic strategies to inclusive and equitable social development and growth.”

The Zambian envoy said the post-2015 Development Agenda should increase the quality of human capital through capacity improvement for human skills development, especially for the youth and women.

Dr Kasese-Bota said education was the cornerstone of sustainable development as it significantly contributes to poverty reduction and improvement of the well-being of families.

“The southern African region, therefore, recognises the enhanced potential of education for economic growth, improved health outcomes, increased opportunity for employment, and resilient and stable societies,” the ambassador said. “My region wants to emphasise the need for SDGs to focus on early childhood education, primary, secondary or high school and tertiary education including skills training and ensuring universality of such education to all.”

She called for formulation of policies that would increase resources to education, training of teachers, improve curriculum and upgrade infrastructure to improve the quality of education.

“In this regard, my region supports the need to have an SDG on education and skills development for all, which should capture all the MDGs targets and unfinished business while at the same time addressing the gaps and inter-linkages with other important sector goals,” Dr Kasese-Bota said.

The ambassador said southern African countries had prioritised education and training.

Dr Kasese-Bota also said culture was an important component that needs attention in the SDGs framework.

“Social protection will play a key role in the post 2015 development agenda with emphasis on sustainable and environmentally friendly economic development and poverty reduction,” said Dr Kasese-Bota. “Social protection is central for and cuts across all the three pillars of sustainable development.”

Zambia and Zimbabwe are representing southern Africa on the UN Open Working Group, which is formulating SDGs that will succeed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015.

Issued by:

CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA (Mr.)

First Secretary for Press and Public Relations

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

www.zambiaun.com Mobile: +1(646)2405430, Email: chibaula@zambiaun.com