



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Zambia joins selected UN Member States in formulating SDGs

NEW YORK, Saturday, March 16, 2013 – United Nations' Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, to which Zambia is a member, has commenced its long-awaited deliberations to formulate proposals of the post-2015 development agenda.

Zambia and Zimbabwe are jointly representing the Southern African region on the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will focus on all-inclusive and equitable economic growth with maximal environmental protection.

UN General Assembly President Vuk Jeremic, on Thursday, said: "The Open Working Group needs to establish goals to eradicate poverty and hunger; encourage scientific and technological innovation; raise healthcare and education standards; set renewable and clean energy targets; decide on ways to protect and manage our finite natural resources amongst many others."

The SDGs will constitute the post-2015 global development agenda that is likely to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015.

UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, said Sustainable Development will be one of his five priority areas of focus that will include supporting nations in transition, building a more secure world, and empowering women and youths.

Giving an overview of the SDGs formulation, Zambia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota said Zambia and other UN Member States have "a big task" of shaping the future development agenda with global consensus.

"We are looking at the post 2015 agenda as a hybrid of the MDGs successes as well as the improvement of the MDGs challenges and shortcomings," Ambassador Kasese-Bota said. "We are looking at enhancing the 2015 transformative transition without obliterating the successes and the gains of the MDGs, and further build in mechanisms that will champion the vulnerabilities of the global contemporaries and emerging challenges".

At the Rio+20 Summit in Brazil last year, the UN 193-Member States agreed that the Open Working Group will have to submit a proposed list of SDGs to the 68th Session of the General Assembly in September 2013 for consideration and appropriate action.

Sustainable Development refers to a mode of human development in which the use of resources and the environment meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Issued by:

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