



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

NEW YORK, Thursday, April 12, 2012 – African Governments have reaffirmed their demand for two permanent seats and about five non-permanent seats in the United Nations (UN) Security Council.

In their submissions during an Informal Plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the equitable representation in the membership of the Security Council, several African countries and other friendly nations backed the calls for more representation of the 54-nation continent in the Security Council.

Her Excellency Ambassador Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations, said the African proposal sought to redress the historical injustice to the continent through the Security Council composition and processes.

"It is the position of the African Group that there should be expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories with the new permanent members exercising all privileges and obligations that go with permanency tenure," Ambassador Dr Kasese-Bota told the gathering.

"However, Africa exercises flexibility on issues of maintaining or abolishing the veto for all permanent members of the Security Council."

Ambassador Dr Kasese-Bota submitted that although Africa was the subject of about 70 percent of the UN Security Council's decisions, the continent did not have permanent representatives. She, therefore, called for the change of the status quo.

Ambassador Dr Kasese-Bota said Africa was opposed to any piecemeal approach but comprehensive style.

At the same meeting, His Excellency Ambassador Charles Ntwaagae, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations, said Africa remained committed to reforming the Security Council to make it more representative, more accountable, more democratic and inclusive in its composition and methods of work.

"The identification of the candidate countries to occupy the Permanent Seats should be left to the wisdom of African leaders to decide on," Ambassador Ntwaagae said.

His Excellency Ambassador Wilfried Emvula, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations, said his country was strongly opposed to any second-class permanent membership status for African countries or any other member state.

"The fact that the agenda of the Security Council has dealt more with issues concerning Africa than any other region is a compelling case for the continent to play an active part in deciding upon matters affecting its wellbeing," Ambassador Emvula said.

Coordinator of the C-10 Group negotiating on behalf of the African Group, His Excellency Ambassador Shekou Touray, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, said support for the African Common position continued to receive support in the continent's quest to claim permanent membership in the Security Council and address the historical under-representation.

Ambassador Touray said the UN Security Council was the principal decision-making organ in matters relating to international peace and security.

Currently the UN Security Council is composed of five permanent members — China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America — and 10 non-permanent members of which only South Africa and Togo are from Africa, the continent with the largest number of members of the UN.

Issued by:

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