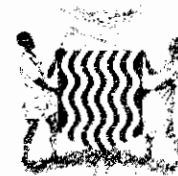


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STATEMENT

BY

**PROF. MWELWA C. MUSAMBACHIME
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

TO

**THE FIRST COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL
DEBATE: AGENDA ITEMS 62 TO 82
OF THE 58TH SESSION**

OF THE

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**8 October, 2003
New York, NY**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is particularly happy to see your Excellency, Ambassador Jarmo Sariva of Finland, a country with which Zambia enjoys close relations, presiding over the deliberations of the Fifty-Eighth Session of this Committee. I, therefore, wish to congratulate you on your deserving election as Chairman of the First Committee. Given your professional skills and dedication to the work of the Committee, I am confident that you will steer the work of this committee to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau, in whom I have great confidence. My delegation pledges to be at your full disposal as you perform your duties.

I note that the Fifty-Eighth Session of our Committee would draw a lot of lessons from the work of the Fifty-Seventh Session. This is what it should be as knowledge is a cumulative phenomenon. My delegation, therefore, wishes to commend your predecessor H.E Prof Matiya Mulumba Kiwanuka of Uganda for the manner in which he lead the work of the Committee during the Fifty-Seventh Session. His achievements are a strong foundation on which the current session should build on.

I welcome and congratulate Ambassador Nobuyasu Abe on his appointment as the new Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. I am confident that, given his vast experience and diplomatic skills, Ambassador Abe will consolidate the achievements of former Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala in promoting global disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

In the past four years, threats to international peace and security have not only been exacerbated by the failure of the international community to prevent potential conflicts, but to a large extent, to the inability of the

disarmament machinery to reach consensus on a comprehensive agenda for disarmament. As stated by Ambassador Nobuyasu Abe in his opening Statement of this Session, both the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the Conference on Disarmament (CD) failed to agree on recommendations and programme of work for the year 2003 respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation had hoped the Commission would make progress in its efforts to find ways and means to achieve Nuclear Disarmament and practical confidence building measures in the field of conventional arms.

For very similar reasons, the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament ended its first session of 2003 on 28th March without being able to agree on a programme of work. The problem confronting these two disarmament bodies were exacerbated by the use of force in international relations, the lack of universal support for multilateralism and indeed the relevance and role of the United Nations. In the past one year, the two disarmament bodies watched hopelessly as global military expenditures rose to cold war peak levels of over US Dollars 1 trillion a year.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation hopes this Committee will enhance the package proposal by the Ambassadors of Algeria, Belgium, Chile, Colombia and Sweden aimed at undoing the dead lock. Accordingly, Zambia supports the proposed creation of the four Ad Hoc Committees on Negative Security Assurances; the Session of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; the banning of production of fissile materials and on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

The proposed Special Coordinators on radiological weapons and on a Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament, including on transparency in armaments would enhance the work of the Ad Hoc Committees that was contained in the package proposal by the Ambassadors. Given the challenges

facing global disarmament, my delegation fully agrees with the proposed package, which my Government considers to be a very significant outcome of the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

There is no doubt that the picture I have painted above has affected the entire international security regime, architecture and arrangements. The International Collective Security Architecture built and strengthened over the decades, now seems to be able to offer just a minimum veneer of security. In fact all countries stand vulnerable to one form of threat or another. Unfortunately, collectively, we are unable to escape to safety. To do so will require concerted universal efforts to strengthen existing security regimes and arrangements. As proposed by the group of concerned Ambassadors in the Conference on Disarmament, there is even a need for building new security regimes to address emerging threats to international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation firmly believes that all is not lost. There are opportunities within the context of multilateralism, to strengthen the existing international security regimes. A new regime would address threats arising from proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

In order for disarmament and non-proliferation agendas to succeed, there is need for the international community to strengthen the existing monitoring and enforcement arrangements that were foreseen in all the disarmament agreements and conventions such as the non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT); the Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) or the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

To guarantee the world a stable international environment requires that the primary role of the United

Nations Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security be recognized, strengthened and supported by all Member States. It is, therefore, only the United Nations that can comprehensively monitor and verifies compliance to international agreements and conventions, upon international security architecture currently rests. Furthermore, a strengthened United Nations Security Council has a greater capacity for confidence building in all areas where threats to peace exist.

Mr. Chairman,

Through the United Nations as a whole, it is possible to effectively prevent terrorists from gaining access to weapons of mass destructions, including the rampant misuse of small arms and light weapons. The United Nations acting through both the General Assembly and the Security Council, can give hope and save lives and property around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to reaffirm the role of the First Committee and the United Nations in general, in strengthening of existing international security regimes architecture and arrangements. Zambia reaffirms that Nuclear-Weapons-free-zones, and regional disarmament centres contribute to peace and stability.

My delegation sees a future in calling for a Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in order to facilitate a comprehensive review of the existing international security architecture and arrangements. A successful outcome to the special session could, once again, recreate the atmosphere of hope for peace and development, in a secure environment that the world was beginning to experience at the end of the cold war.

In conclusion, Zambia is prepared to participate actively in the efforts to make the First Committee more effective. The improvements to the First Committee working methods should be undertaken in an inclusive, consultative and transparent manner, with all stakeholders in the domain of disarmament and non-proliferation.

I thank you