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**ZAMBIA**



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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**DELIVERED IN THE GENERAL DEBATE  
OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE**

**OF**

**THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEMS: 57 - 72**

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau, on your deserving election as Chairman of the First Committee. I wish from the onset to pledge my delegation's full cooperation. Zambia has and continues to appreciate the commitment of your country, Mexico to the achievement of complete and general disarmament. Your well acknowledged experience in multilateral diplomacy will undoubtedly be an asset in our efforts to steer our work to successful conclusion.

My delegation also wishes to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, for his inspiring remarks addressed to the Committee in the opening ceremony on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2004. My delegation shares his optimism about the future for further achievements in global disarmament. In spite of the lack of progress in nuclear disarmament, Zambia notes with satisfaction the progress made in other areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, in the past one year.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to encourage members of this Committee to approach this session with their usual professional wisdom that fully appreciates the heavy responsibilities of contributing to international peace and security. There is need for the distinguished members of this Committee to strive to break the impasse on the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

My delegation will today speak in broad terms on issues of general and complete disarmament and non-proliferation questions. Detailed interventions will be made later.

The initiative to have interactive discussion is welcomed by my delegation, as it will offer smaller delegations, like mine, with the opportunities to contribute on these important issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia is committed to strengthen multilateralism through continued support to existing multilateral disarmament machinery. Strong multilateral legal institutions will in fact strengthen non-proliferation efforts. Zambia has and continues to subscribe to the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime, that she considers to be still a cornerstone of nuclear disarmament. However, my country is concerned that recent developments around the world have tended to undermine the NPT regime.

In the last 36 years since the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) was adopted, the international community has steadily made progress in nuclear disarmament. Two reviews of the NPT undertaken in 1995 and 2000 respectively, demonstrated the consensus the international community has on the need to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

It is my hope that despite difficulties, the preparations for the 2005 NPT Review Conference will continue to make progress. It is the advice of individual members of this Committee to their respective Governments that will help overcome the difficulties in the negotiations going on in those two bodies. Zambia feels that dealing first with those issues on which consensus exists could, facilitate the process.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Production, Stockpiling and Transfer of anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, or the Ottawa Convention, has lived up to expectations. Zambia thanks the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) for its leading role in operationalizing the Convention.

My Government wishes to further commend the United Nations Mine Action Service for maintaining close liaison with State Parties. The sending of a fact-finding mission to Lusaka in July/August this year, was highly appreciated by my Government.

During that visit, the UNMAS helped the Zambian Mine Action Centre to enhance its programmes and exchanged views on Zambia's participation in the First Review Conference on the Ottawa Convention that is scheduled to be held from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2004, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia also wishes to commend the United States Government for its continued support in the area of capacity building at the Zambia Mine Action Centre (ZAMAC). It is our hope that other development partners will join the United States in strengthening Zambia's capacity to address the problem of landmines at both national and regional levels.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia is pleased to note that the First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention is to be held in Africa, a Continent that is heavily affected by landmines. This is a recognition of the continued problem of landmines on our Continent. The problems of Landmines in Africa dates back in some countries, to the Second World War. Most recently, it is a result of the wars of national liberation. Intra and inter-State conflicts of our time have also exacerbated the problem.

Mr. Chairman,

This Committee is meeting at a difficult time. The catalogue of unaccomplished tasks in our efforts to achieve complete and general disarmament, is very long. Accordingly, it is the view of my delegation that urgent steps needs to be taken to achieve the goal we set for ourselves.

Mr. Chairman,

The increase in the proliferation of small arms and light weapons pose a threat to the survival of States. Uncontrolled access by the non-States actors to these types of weapons leads to instability. Accordingly, It is over extremely urgency for the International Community to implement the Programme of Action that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in July, 2001.

Mr. Chairman,

This Committee can do humankind a service by acting in unison to prevent terrorist from abusing the benefits of globalization to achieve their ends. The Commission of violent crime using Small Arms and Man-Portable in Defense Systems (MANPADS) has resulted in death and destruction in many countries.

In view of these challenges to humankind, the First Committee should lead the efforts of the United Nations to reassert its authority, through the universal enforcement of multilateral conventions. To achieve this, the United Nations has to strengthen multilateralism. The multilateral imperative will strengthen bilateral and collective efforts. Since most of the threats to international peace and security affect all countries, no country should take it upon itself to enforce multilateral agreements and conventions.

In conclusion, this Committee can contribute to strengthening of international peace and security. To help its work, the Committee can

help release resources that continue to be spent on armaments in favour of human development.

With these realities, the multilateral imperative persuades us to rethink the rationale of the relationship between disarmament and development. In my Government's view, the convening of the IV Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSODIV) could address all these pressing matters.

I thank you.

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