



Republic of
ZAMBIA



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"The Multilateral Imperative"

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. LEVY PATRICK MWANAWASA, SC
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

TO THE

**59TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, NY
SEPTEMBER 21, 2004**

Your Excellency, Mr. Jean Ping,
President of the 59th Session
of the General Assembly ...

Secretary-General Kofi Annan ...

Your Majesties and Excellencies ...

Ladies and Gentlemen ...

I am deeply honored to have this opportunity
to address the General Assembly on behalf
of the people of Zambia.

Mr. President ...

I would like to begin by congratulating you
on your assumption to the presidency
of the 59th Session of the General
Assembly.

As one of the twenty-one Vice-Presidents
for the current session, Zambia pledges its
support and cooperation to you.

I would also like to pay tribute to your
predecessor ...His Excellency
Mr. Julian Robert Hunt of Saint Lucia

for the efficient manner with which he presided over the proceedings of the 58th Session.

I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Secretary-General Annan for his relentless dedication to the cause of international peace, security and economic development.

Mr. President ...

This General Assembly convenes at a time when vexing problems plague the world community. Zambia believes the key to addressing a host of difficult global issues ... issues like terrorism, HIV/AIDS, and the humanitarian tragedy in Darfur ...

The key is to find multilateral solutions ... often within the context of an effective United Nations organization.

Indeed, this is what I would call **a multilateral imperative.**

With that in mind ...Zambia welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the 'Work of the Organization'.

It is also Zambia's hope that this Session will build on past achievements to advance the global agenda.

Accordingly ...Zambia supports the convening of the high-level-plenary meeting next year in New York on the Millennium Development Goals ... to which we committed ourselves in 2000.

We firmly believe that all Member states have a collective responsibility to implement the commitments set forth in the Declaration.

My delegation supports the on-going reforms of the United Nations.

Zambia shares the concerns of other countries that this important process has not yet been completed.

Zambia strongly believes that the reforms should address the concerns of developing countries.

In this regard, we look forward to the progress reports on the reforms.

Zambia appreciates the recent initiatives by the President of the 58th Session

on the revitalization, reform and enhancement of the working methods of the General Assembly.

My delegation stands ready to continue actively participating in the reform process during this Session.

We commend you, Mr. President and your predecessor -- on the revitalization of the General Assembly as the highest, deliberative and decision-making organ of the United Nations.

Regarding the reform of the Security Council, Zambia remains concerned about the lack of progress.

I, therefore, appeal to this August Assembly to support the efforts of the Security Council to enhance its decision-making and liaison methods during this Session.

As I stated at the outset, Zambia believes in multilateralism.

It continues to be an indispensable instrument for achieving global consensus on important, life-saving issues.

As a global community, we face challenges that are transnational and inter-connected in nature.

It is essential that we take advantage of the immense problem-solving potential of multilateralism.

Unilateralism should have no place in this global era.

Zambia reaffirms its support for the United Nations' initiatives in the fight against global terrorism and the proliferation of small arms and any forms of weapons of mass destruction.

We call upon the international community to take all necessary steps within the purview of the United Nations to combat the scourge of terrorism in all its manifestations.

This scourge needs to be fought relentlessly ... with total commitment and vigour.

Zambia also pledges to continue supporting the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTG) of the Security Council.

My delegation would like the United Nations and the world community at large to assist member states in building their capacity to fight international terrorism.

And we want to express our heartfelt sympathy for the innocent victims of terrorism ... such as in Russia, here in New York ... and elsewhere.

Mr. President ...

Zambia expresses its profound dismay at the continued unrest in the Middle East and the impasse in the Palestinian/Israeli peace process.

We call on the parties to this long-standing conflict to allow for full implementation of the Quartet's Road Map.

Zambia reiterates that the Road Map offers a viable solution to the Middle East question.

We endorse and support the initiatives for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis.

In the same vein, Zambia welcomes the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1546 (2004) on Iraq.

Mr. President,

We realize fully that economic, social and political development is the primary responsibility of each individual country.

And we're pleased that the G8 countries continue to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) whose primary objective is to eradicate the increasing poverty in our continent and put African countries on the path of sustainable economic growth.

We recognize that the new initiative is by Africans and for Africans.

But we cannot ignore the vital importance of assistance from the International Community through increased Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Mr. President, External debt has continued to consume a large proportion of the national incomes of developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries.

The HIPC Initiative was established to assist the highly indebted poor countries to reduce external debt to sustainable levels.

Admittedly, the HIPC initiative does help in reducing the effects of indebtedness.

However, it has some inherent problems which inhibit the full realization of its benefits.

There is a need, therefore, for the International Community to continue exploring innovative approaches toward debt elimination. It is in this light we applaud the efforts of President Lula of Brazil in his search for appropriate financing paradigm for the eradication of poverty and hunger.

As we endeavor to achieve the Millennium Development Goals ...we are very concerned with the plight of the Least Developed Countries.

LDCs constitute 70 percent of the world's population ... 70 percent.

These countries are likely to miss the target we set of reducing by half the number of

people living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

Let me briefly change direction and say a few words about several positive developments in my country ... a place where freedom truly is on the march.

As you know ... the Brussels Programme of Action was adopted in 2001.

Since then, Zambia has committed herself to serious economic reform ... including privatization, trade liberalization, the adoption of poverty reduction strategies, and the creation of a conducive environment for both local and foreign investment.

While we are doing our part, we expect a corresponding action from the International Community ... as agreed upon in the Brussels Programme of Action.

Without assistance, all of our efforts will be rendered futile. Our aim is to graduate ... one day soon ... from an LDC to a developing country.

In addition, I'm proud to say that my administration is based on the rule of law.

For example, we have embarked on an ambitious review of our constitution so as to give ourselves a constitution that will stand the test of time.

We call on our cooperating partners and well wishers to support us in this important endeavour.

This and Next year 2004/2005 are important years for the people of Zambia.

I call your attention to four important events.

First on 24th October, 2004 we shall celebrate 40th Anniversary of our National Independence then in February 2005, Zambia will be hosting the Third Africa Peace Conference.

The climax of the Conference will be the honouring of the 100 birthday of the former United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold who died tragically in a plane crash in Ndola, Zambia.

Also next year ...my country will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town of Livingstone ...the tourist capital of

Zambia ... and home of Victoria Falls. also popularly known as the adventure centre of Africa.

In addition, next year we will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Dr. David Livingstone's first glimpse of the Victoria Falls --- the world's largest curtain of falling water, which we call Mosi-O-Tunya – The smoke that thunders.

It is my honour to invite your Excellencies, and through you, all of your citizens to come to Zambia to participate in these events.

Mr. President,

Zambia also welcomes peace initiatives at regional, continental and global levels aimed at ending conflicts and wars in various parts of the world.

It is for this reason that Zambia has continued its active participation in the United Nations peacekeeping missions.

With peace prevailing in Angola, that country is now faced with the challenge of post-conflict reconstruction.

Zambia calls on the international community to double its assistance to Angola to help tackle the humanitarian situations such as removal of landmines, and the settlement and reintegration of former combatants and refugees.

I am pleased to report that on 15th June, 2004, Zambia and Angola witnessed the repatriation of 363 Angolan refugees in north-western Zambia, under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' voluntary repatriation programme.

A good start to the programme ... but more international support is needed.

Mr. President,

In conclusion ... Mr. President ...

I want to reiterate the imperative of finding multilateral solution to the problems that confront us. In our interdependent world, all of the problems and challenges that we face can only be addressed through the concerted multilateral efforts of the international community.

I thank you.