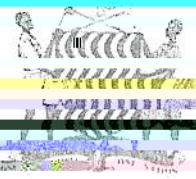


REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

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Statement by Honourable Edna Kambalisa, M.P.
Deputy Minister of Gender and Child Development

Statement delivered During the General Debate on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Outcome of the Twenty-third Special Session of the Economic and Social Council Assembly"

2nd March 2019.

ANSWER COLUMNS

ANSWER COLUMNS are designed to provide you with a quick reference to the answers to many questions that you may have about the book or about the material covered.

ANSWER COLUMNS are located at the end of each chapter and are numbered sequentially.

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Chairperson,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates.

My delegation wishes to congratulate you on your election and the manner in which you are conducting the affairs of this Session. My delegation, therefore, pledges its full support to you in your discharge of your duties.

Chairperson,

My Government remains committed to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcome of the 20th Special Session of the General Assembly, as evidenced by the new administration's ratification of international instruments on gender to which we are party. I am particularly pleased to announce that my Government has not only prioritized the domestication of international instruments on gender to which it is party, but has already initiated practical measures to facilitate the domestication of the provisions of the CEDAW because we view this instrument as a comprehensive bill of rights for women.

Government has, in this regard, conducted a CEDAW Mapping Exercise which has identified the various provisions that have been incorporated into national legislation and those that have not. This process has enabled Government to develop a clear road map for systematically domesticating the provisions of the CEDAW for legitimate fulfillment. We strongly believe that once this instrument is domesticated, it will have a significant impact on the advancement of women in Zambia.

Chairperson,

Another issue that continues to pose threat to the advancement of women in Zambia is the continued occurrence of gender-based violence. Zambia has responded to this scourge by enacting the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act of 2011 which provides for the protection and support for survivors of gender-based violence. The Act also provides for the establishment of shelters for survivors for CRV as a primary responsibility of government. While we acknowledge that the enactment of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act is a cornerstone in our fight to eliminate

gender based violence, we are fully cognisant of the need to provide adequate resource for its implementation. Consequently, our government has requested the United Nations System in line with the "One UN" advocacy plan to work with governments to resource resources for its implementation. This is however far from realization, that for a long time, Governments, Cooperating Partners and Civil Society Organisations have spent huge amounts of money to develop policies and implementation plans without setting aside resources for implementation. My Government has taken many steps and we want to urge our cooperating partners to support Zambia's efforts by putting resources into implementation. This is what will yield the results that we so much desire.

Chairperson,

Government also recognises the importance of women's economic empowerment as a catalyst for family's advancement. Women despite their potential that women have to contribute to socio-economic development, they are largely not able to access financial resource and other productive resources.

To facilitate the economic empowerment of rural women, government has established the Civil Society Economic Empowerment Fund under the Civil Society Economic Empowerment Commission. The funds provide for affirmative action in favour of women by allocating 30 percent of the resources to women entrepreneurs. In addition to this Fund, Government has, in the 2012 financial year provided \$2 million dollars and \$2.0 million Euros to the Gender and Child Development Division and Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health Services respectively to facilitate access to start-up capital, entrepreneurial training technologies and provide training to women entrepreneurs in business entrepreneurship.

Chairperson,

Our desire to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action has not been without challenges. To remove challenges, our institution has to take up the task of institutionalising and accountability for gender mainstreaming. However, together with our stakeholders, we will take on these challenges head on. I thank you!