

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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Statement by Honorable Eusebio Kibuka, MP Deputy Minister of Gender and Child Development

Statement delivered during the **Country Development and Humanitarian Assistance Briefing**
Platform for Action and Outcome of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly

2nd March 2019

REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training
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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, through its members, is fully supportive of you and your bureau in the 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 19th Special Session of the General Assembly, as evidenced by the new administrative structures resolved at our biennial 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 gender into national instruments on gender to which it is party, but has already initiated practical measures to facilitate the domestication 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 to facilitate its implementation. It is our strong belief that once this instrument is domesticated, it will have a multiplier effect on the advancement of women in Zambia.

Chairperson,

Another issue that continues to pose a threat to the advancement of women in Zambia is the continued occurrence of gender-based violence. Zambia has responded to this issue 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 step in our fight to eliminate

gender based violence, we are fully cognisant of the need to provide adequate resource for its

implementation. Consequently, my government has re-established the United Nations System in line

with the One UN approach. We have also increased our resources for its

implementation. This is in line with our realization that for a long time Governments,

Cooperating Partners and Civil Society Organizations have spent huge amounts of money to

develop policies and implementation plans without setting aside resources for implementation.

My Government has now moved from its ad hoc approach and we want to urge our cooperating

partners to support Zambia's efforts by plugging resource 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

women's advancement. Despite the potential that women have to

contribute to socio-economic development, they are largely not able to tap into financial, human

and other productive resources.

In order to facilitate the economic empowerment of rural women, government has established the

Citizen's Economic Empowerment Fund under the Citizen's Economic Empowerment

Commission. The Fund provides 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 \$2.5 million dollars to the Gender and

Child Development Division and Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health

respectively targeting rural women. The purpose of the fund is to facilitate access to start-up

capital for rural women saving 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 and our challenges remain that of finding ways of institutionalising and

accountability for gender mainstreaming. However, together with our stakeholders, we will take on

these challenges head on. I thank you!