

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

**MRS. WINNIE NATALA CHIBESAKUNDA
FIRST SECRETARY, DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ZAMBIA**

ON

AFRICAN UNION

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you and members of the Bureau on your election. My delegation has every confidence in your leadership to steer the work of the committee to a successful conclusion.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Malawi on behalf of

specific provisions on sexual offences. While the Penal Code has been reviewed to introduce these provisions on sexual offences, Government has also initiated measures aimed at developing comprehensive legislation to address gender based violence. It is the view of Government that once this initiative is implemented, cases of gender violence will reduce drastically

Mr. Chairman,

In responding to increased participation of girls in education, government has introduced various administrative measures which include the abolition of

- Negative attitudes towards gender mainstreaming;
- Inadequate resources for women's economic empowerment;
- High poverty levels, particularly among women; and
- The HIV and AIDS pandemic which places a great burden of care on women.

Mr. Chairman

It is clear that the problems facing women are wide and varied and require the concerted effort of the international community to effectively address these challenges. Zambia like other developing countries requires not only financial assistance for gender programmes but also technical assistance and

building in order to realize the agreed international goals relating to women.