

Confidential



Republic of Zambia

**Ministerial Statement To Parliament To Be Delivered By Hon. Harry
Kalaba, MP, Minister Of Foreign Affairs On The 71st Session Of The
United Nations General Assembly Held In New York, 19th To
26th September, 2016**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
LUSAKA**

October, 2016

Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to report to this august House that Zambia was among the 193 United Nations Member States that participated in the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly held from 19th to 26th September, 2016 under the theme "**The Sustainable Development Goals: A Universal Push to Transform Our World**".

The Zambian delegation was led by the Republican President, His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu who was accompanied by the First Lady Madam Esther Lungu and Permanent Secretaries from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Commerce, Trade and Industry; as well as from Lands Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

Mr. Speaker,

This year's General Assembly marked the first anniversary of the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As you may be aware, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the supportive means of implementation reflected in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) calls for, among others, the Integration of SDGs into national development planning and fiscal frameworks of individual Member States. During the General Assembly, World Leaders, including His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, re-affirmed their commitments to work towards translating the SDGs into actionable national policies, plans and programmes.

Mr. Speaker,

In his address to the General Assembly, President Lungu expressed appreciation for the important synergies of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063 on continental development aspirations for "**the Africa We want**".

The President expressed the need for meaningful global development and the need to eliminate poverty, high unemployment, hunger and income inequality among the global citizens. He further stated that Zambia has undertaken specific measures aimed at promoting economic transformation in the country through the promotion of industrialisation in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. As a solution to this, President Lungu urged the global meeting to increase investment in agro-processing industries to developing countries, including Zambia in order to enhance food production and add value to our products.

Mr. Speaker,

Climate change is a global phenomenon that has gripped nations on the planet. Its effects on agriculture, energy production and water supply has proved that it is not a hoax. Zambia, like many other countries, has not been spared by the effects of climate change. It is in this regard, that His Excellency the President spoke extensively on the subject and called for concerted efforts in ensuring the full operationalization of the Green Climate Fund aimed at providing the necessary finances to mitigate the scourge.

His Excellency the President also informed the world body of Zambia's efforts and progress made in addressing communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDs, TB and malaria. He further informed the meeting about the positive regional interventions that are contributing to the improved health system through strengthening of the SADC strategy on pooled procurement of essential medicines and health commodities. The Zambian Government has put in place policy measures to ensure that our people benefit from these interventions.

Mr. Speaker,

In addition to the General Debate, His Excellency the President participated in several other important meetings aimed at addressing topical global issues. Among these meetings was the High Level Summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants. This was the first time in the history of the General Assembly that Heads of State and Government convened to discuss the refugee and migrant crisis. This meeting presented a unique opportunity for creating a more responsible, predictable system for responding to large movements of refugees and migrants.

Mr. Speaker,

The High level Meeting adopted an outcome document that centred on five key principles: prevention, protection, self-reliance, partnerships and responsibility sharing in managing large movements of refugees and migrants. Furthermore, Sir, the outcome document outlined a set of commitments for both refugees and migrants.

This Summit was particularly important to Zambia due to the critical role the country continues to play in hosting refugees from the region and beyond.

Mr. Speaker,

On 20th September, 2016, Zambia was privileged to be among the 25 countries invited to participate in the Leaders' Summit on Refugees convened by the United States President, Mr. Barack Obama. These countries were selected from among countries that have made significant contributions to resolving the refugee crisis in the World. The Summit, among other issues, galvanized significant new global commitments including the call to increasing funding to International Organisations and humanitarian appeals, admission of more refugees through resettlement or other legal pathways, and for increased refugees