



# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022  
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

*Please Check Against Delivery*

## STATEMENT (1)

BY

**H.E. DR. MWABA P. KASESE-BOTA  
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP (OWG)  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)  
ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA GROUP  
17<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013**

New York  
17 June 2013

*First Statement*

**STATEMENT FOR THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE OWG ON SDGS FROM 17<sup>TH</sup> -19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2013 ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA GROUP TO BE DELIVERED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZAMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS H.E. DR. MWABA P. KASESE- BOTA.**

---

Co Chair,

I wish to thank you for giving me the floor to make this statement on behalf of my country, Zambia and on behalf of Zimbabwe and the Southern African Group. I will speak on the important topics of Employment and Decent work, Social Protection, Youth, Education and Culture. I wish to align this statement to the statements that were delivered by the Permanent Representative of Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China, the representative of Djibouti on behalf of Africa group, as well as the Ambassador of Benin on behalf of the LDCs.

I wish to thank the Co chairs for their continued leadership. I also wish to recognise and thank the distinguished presenters for yesterday's presentation on the Report of the High level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post -2015 Development Agenda and the presenters on the TST briefs which provided some insight into the work of this session of the open working group.

Co Chair,

Employment, Social Protection, Youth, Education and Culture are important and very fundamental to Sustainable Development, and its achievement there of.

Co Chair,

As we have repeatedly expressed in the post 2015 discourse, the Millennium Development Goals which mainly were draped in the social and human development concerns have set out some very important trajectory for success of the SDGs. The themes we discuss today were part of the MDGs expressly as goals or as tacit targets and embodied through goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The various and different approaches that countries have undertaken in the MDG and the unlikelihood of many countries to meet the set targets calls therefore, for stronger systemic and policy strategies that will advance not just the thematic issues but strategies that ensures we attain sustainable development.

Co chair

Coming to the question of employment and decent work, the first MDG contains a clear target and the report on progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa indicates a rise in the unemployed workforce since 2008, a situation which need urgent redress and the SDGs should therefore embrace employment and decent work especially for women and young people in both urban and rural communities. Employment and decent work will other than improving income status of people also impacts many other aspects of development including linking macroeconomic strategies to inclusive and equitable social development and growth.

The post 2015 Development Agenda should address the key constraint of increasing quality of human capital through capacity improvement for human skills development especially for the youth and women.

Co Chairs,

Education is the cornerstone of any nations sustainable development. Education does not just prepare one for future job opportunities but contributes significantly to poverty reduction and well being of the people and their families. Our region therefore recognises the enhanced potential of education for economic growth, improved health indicators, increased opportunity for employment, and resilient and stable societies.

While the Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3 have resulted in improvements of school enrolments with Africa seeing more than two thirds of children enrolled in primary schools in 2010 than in 1999), the impressive net enrolments do not match with completion rates. MDG 2 focused on increasing numbers within the same and existing infrastructure and more less the same levels of teachers hence increasing the pupil teacher ratio, and sometimes using untrained teachers as in community and village schools, a situation which seriously compromised quality of education. My region wants to emphasise the need for SDGs to focus on Early Childhood Education, Primary, secondary or high school and tertiary education including skills training and ensuring universality of such education to all.

Co Chair,

In order to achieve this, a deliberate policy outcome to include all levels of education, an increase in resources to education, a shift in programming and implementation modalities to ensure corresponding infrastructure development and supportive services to improve quality, that is to areas such as teachers training, curriculum development and school requisites or learning aids provision should be set up.

In this regard my region supports the need to have an SDG on education and skills development for all, which should capture all the MDGs targets and unfinished business while at the same time addressing the gaps and inter-linkages with other important sector goals. Our region has prioritised Education and training as a priority and has in place a SADC protocol for member states that includes the following specific aspects; Policy for education and training; Basic education; Intermediate education and training; Higher education; Distance education; Training fund; Research and development; Lifelong education and training; and Publishing and library resources. My delegation also prioritises early childhood development and learning.

With regard to culture, my delegation is of the view that culture is an important component that needs attention in the SDGs framework in order to strengthen its role and creativity in society and to promote protection, promotion and transmission of heritage.

Co Chairs

Social Protection is another very important aspect in the broader context of poverty eradication, social justice and inclusiveness. Social protection policies and programs are designed to diminish exposure to risks and are integral to enhancing individuals economic productivity.

Social Protection will play a key role in the post 2015 development agenda with emphasis on sustainable and environmentally friendly economic development and poverty reduction. Social protection is central for and cuts across all the three pillars of sustainable development. As the Social Protection parameters are likely to fall in all the three pillar goals, my delegation feels that having it as a stand alone goal will duplicate effort but should

have it embodied within the framework of the SDGs, with each goal having a possible social protection index/analysis.

I thank you.