Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

CHITSAKA CHIPAZIWA
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

ON THE

AGENDA ITEM 21:
“GLOBALIZATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE”

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Check against Delivery
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the agenda item that is under consideration today and we take note of them. Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statements delivered by Fiji and Ethiopia on behalf of the G77 and China and the African Group respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

For several years now, globalization has become subject of debate here at the United Nations. While we all acknowledge that globalization has become a reality, the process has also brought both challenges and opportunities. It is a fact that the process of globalization is generating unbalanced outcomes, both between and within countries. While recognizing that globalization is contributing to wealth creation, it is important to note that its benefits are not shared equitably within and among countries. Furthermore, it has been observed that most of the world’s wealth is heavily concentrated in the developed countries. Clearly, globalization has continued to benefit a few, while the majority continue to be marginalized. Investments are concentrated in select regions to the disadvantage of the others. At the same time, official development assistance from industrialized countries continues to dwindle. It is our view that there is an urgent need to address these inequities in the global economy if globalization is to benefit all. No economy no matter how powerful can operate in isolation hence the need for collaboration and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Zimbabwe reiterates its unyielding belief that the United Nations is the centre for coordinating and harmonizing the actions of Member States in international cooperation in solving global challenges of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian nature. It is therefore imperative that we continue to place the United Nations at the centre of international policy making, oversight and economic cooperation and to strengthen its role so that it reaches its maximum potential in this regard. We underscore the need for all Member States to collectively work together to strengthen rather than weaken the United Nations role in global issues.
Mr. Chairman,

Zimbabwe stresses the urgent need to reform institutions of global governance for them to embrace more democratic principles. There must be mechanisms and adequate channels through which developing countries can make their voices and concerns heard. We underscore the need for institutions of global governance to include representatives of developing countries in the formulation of global policies and action plans to address global socio-economic crises. In addition, the enduring glaring lack of coherence in global governance is of great concern to us and must be urgently addressed. It is important that institutions of global governance enhance policy coordination in a manner that makes them act as vehicles for international cooperation. We expect institutions of global governance to help developing countries to strategically engage in economic globalization.

Mr. Chairman,

Zimbabwe is of the view that for globalization to work for all, we have to pursue an all inclusive and equitable global agenda. In this respect, developed countries should fully implement all their commitments to developing countries. The external debt crisis should be addressed in a way that allows developing countries to pursue sustainable development and meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. Furthermore, political will is needed in order to successfully conclude the current multilateral trade negotiations of the Doha Development Round to allow developing countries to derive maximum benefits from the global trade.

Mr. Chairman,

Zimbabwe regards trade as a key engine for economic growth and development. We believe that we could record a higher growth rate if we can receive a fair price for our commodities. We share the view that the operationalization of the aid for trade initiative will assist developing countries to address supply side constraints and build capacity. Our country is endowed with natural resources which can enable it to achieve sustainable development if it receives the right level of foreign direct investments (FDI). IncreasedFDIs to the country would result in increased exports and make more resources available for development. However, unilateral economic
sanctions must not be allowed to punish weak states outside international law.

Mr. Chairman

The continuing digital divide between developed and developing countries undermines equitable integration of developing countries into the global economy. Science and Technology play a critical role in development and are expected to contribute towards the achievement of knowledge based economics. In this regard, Zimbabwe recognizes the important role that science and technology can play in such areas as agriculture, rural development, medicine and environmental management. The Government of Zimbabwe remains committed to the promotion of science, technology, innovation, research and development. It has placed greater focus on the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in its education system. Zimbabwe calls upon the UN system, with the support of the international community, to continue to co-ordinate and initiate programmes to assist developing countries to promote science and technology for development.

Mr. Chairman,

Zimbabwe supports the call by developing countries for the bridging of the existing technological gap by promoting technology transfer that encourages diffusion of technology through research and development and science education. The intellectual property rights (IPRs) regime should be reviewed to ensure developing countries' access to knowledge and technology that assists in development. IPR regimes should also not hinder the availability of lifesaving medicines at affordable prices, as well as the right of developing countries to have their traditional knowledge protected. We call upon developed countries to fulfill their obligation to transfer technology to developing countries. We urge the United Nations, international financial institutions and other development partners to support science and technology institutions in developing countries in order to help them make significant breakthroughs in key science and technology fields to help them contribute towards promotion of economic development and improve the lives of their citizens.

Mr. Chairman,
Brain drain is also a major factor for the widening gap in science and technology between developed and developing countries especially African countries. Thus, due to brain drain, African countries continue to lose the very skilled people that they need most for their scientific, innovative and technological development and Zimbabwe has not been spared. We therefore strongly believe that there is need to address this problem and that this could be done through increased coordinated international support to developing countries to help them improve their infrastructure for science and technology, research and development as well as innovations. Opportunities must improve so that developing countries can retain their skilled workers.

Mr. Chairman,

Culture remains an untapped economic development resource of many countries. Zimbabwe strongly believes that when appropriately engaged, cultural resources can contribute towards the creation of vibrant economies through leveraging significant tax revenues, providing good paying jobs and creating sustainable enterprises. While culture continues to be under-valued and under-capitalized as a significant catalyst for economic development, empirical evidence shows that the cultural sector is one of the fastest growing economic sectors in many countries. Zimbabwe is one of the most culturally diverse countries and one of its strengths lies in the special talents, creativity and abilities of its people. Having realized that the cultural strengths of our people offers the country many economic opportunities, the Government of Zimbabwe has committed itself to support the country’s cultural industries in order to ensure that they are sustainable and the genuine support of development partners is welcomed. Zimbabwe underscores the need for the international community to create an enabling environment and infrastructure that supports cultural industries around the world. However, the intellectual property rights of developing countries must not be undermined.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that while globalization presents both challenges and opportunities, for the most part, those benefiting from it have been the more economically advanced countries. The continuing disparities between the developed and developing countries are a clear testimony of globalization’s uneven footprint across our world.
I thank you.