Please Check Against Delivery

STATEMENT

BY

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

ON

CONSIDERATION OF ZAMBIA'S COUNTRY
PROGRAMME

New York
8th September 2015
Madam President,

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor and to contribute to the presentation of the Zambia Country programme document.

I thank the Regional Director, Ms. Leila Pakkala for her presentation of the Zambia Country programme 2016-2020. My delegation is in agreement with the analysis of the situation pertaining to children in Zambia as briefly described by Ms. Pakkala. Other than the challenges that she was able to capture, the analysis makes mention of the important work that is being carried out by the Government in order to address the challenges faced by children. **Madam President,**

The UNICEF Country Program was informed by the Government of Zambia’s Sixth national Development Plan as well as other national development plans documents. The CPD focuses on areas identified by the government as areas of focus for children. The CPD therefore speaks to complementing efforts of the Government of Zambia to promote and ensure the well being of all children by attending to areas of profound need.

The Government of Zambia had put up a robust response to the Millennium Declaration in order to be on target by 2015. The government has attained most targets of goal 2 on education with universal numbers of enrolment, and reaching parity for girls and boys. Tremendous progress has been made in reducing neonatal, infant and child mortalities and maternal mortality, as well as goal 6 on TB, Malaria and HIV. Early child marriages among other factors compounded Zambia’s challenges of attaining the MDGs.

The lessons of the last 15 years of the millennium Declaration provide very valuable insights to future programs and implementation. Zambia’s attainment of the yet to be adopted Sustainable Development Goals especially the goals and targets on Health, Gender, Nutrition and Food security will require enhanced partnerships at all levels. We are happy to note that this Country Program Document will be implemented within the context of the Sustainable Development Partnership Framework which was signed by the UN Zambia and the Government and adopted at the UNDP/UNFPA board meeting last week.

**Madam President,**

The CPD notes Zambia’s classification as a Middle Income Country. While Zambia has been classified as such, the economic performance has not translated into improvements in people’s lives and their poverty index as we continue to witness more than 60% of the population living below the poverty datum line. Zambia therefore will continue to partner with institutions such as UNICEF and others to address the inequality and drivers of the intergenerational poverty of most Zambians.

**Madam President,**

As we cross to the new frontier of development, Zambia looks to this CPD with great expectations, including resource mobilisation and partnerships, which will transform Zambia’s Post 2015 outlook for children’s wellbeing, survival and sustainable growth.
Madam President,

Let pay special tribute and gratitude to the UNICEF Team in Lusaka Zambia for the unrelenting effort and endeavour to advance the children’s wellbeing in Zambia and for this excellent presentation of the CPD 2016-2020.

I wish to end by urging the good people of the UNICEF Executive board to approve and adopt the CPD herewith.

Thank you