



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

**MR. MUYAMBO SIPANGULE
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS**

AT THE

**NINTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES
PARTIES
TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)**

HELD AT

THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

6 December, 2010
New York, NY

Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to state that Zambia remains firmly committed to the ICC and the fight against impunity. As a country we remain steadfast and ever willing to cooperate with the court to ensure that the rule of law, justice, peace and security prevails on the African continent and across the globe.

Mr. President,

Allow me to express my delegations' acknowledgement of the progress and positive results achieved at the first ever Review Conference held in Kampala, Uganda from 31 May to 11 June 2010. Without doubt the general outcome of the review conference was a clear indication of states parties' political and diplomatic commitment to the noble cause of the ICC and the fight against impunity. The momentum created by the review conference clearly underscores the commitment of the International Community to an international justice system as a means to deal with perpetrators of international crimes.

Mr. President,

My delegation is aware that in the months since Kampala, the ASP Bureau, its working groups, and focal points have continued discussions on the three of the stocktaking topics (i.e. cooperation, complementarity, and impact on affected communities), as well as on pledges. My delegation has also taken note that time has been set aside during this session for informal consultations on follow-up to the review. It is my delegation's hope that discussions on these topics during these informal consultations will be action-oriented.

Mr. President,

While it is generally accepted that the review conference was a milestone in the development of the international criminal court, the court is still grappling with many challenges such as, political, diplomatic, legal and administrative challenges. Indeed some of these challenges were quite apparent soon after the review conference. It is worth noting, that these challenges are inevitable owing to the very nature of the court and its underlying principles. However, States Parties have a role to play; to ensure that none of these issues obscure the fundamental principles which motivated the creation of the Court. In this regard it is necessary that States Parties, by themselves and within their regional blocks, take a leading role to ensure full cooperation with the court.

Mr. President,

Turning to the issue of the budget for the ninth financial year, my delegation strongly supports the view that the 2011 budget should be decided after a thorough review of the Proposed Budget and the Report of the Committee and not determined by how much a small number of states are willing to pay.

With regard to the budget allocation for the African Union Liaison Office and bearing in mind the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, and while accepting that parallel trials have put pressure on the ICC budget this year it is still necessary that resources are set aside for continued engagement with the African Union and Diplomatic Missions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Mr. President,

With regard to the upcoming election of the ICC prosecutor, it is significant to ensure a nomination and elections process that is conducted with transparency, and which provides for dialogue between Stakeholders and the selection committee and ultimately facilitate the election of the most highly qualified candidate.

Mr. President,

In conclusion my delegation wishes to reiterate Zambia's commitment to the fight against impunity and will therefore continue to cooperate and support the ICC.

I thank you!