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ZAMBIA'S Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr Chola Milambo led Zambians and the diplomatic corps in New York at an auspicious occasion to mark the country's 60 years of membership in the United Nations.

The event, held on 21st November 2024, also commemorated Zambia's 60th Independence Anniversary. Zambia gained her independence on 24th October 1964 and joined the UN on 1st December 1964.

The event brought together UN Member States, Zambians working in the UN, various Zambians working for different international organisations, the Diaspora community, and Mission staff.

The celebrations featured a vibrant fusion of a cultural display by The ZED Trio, which showcased Zambia's unique traditions and customs through their performances. Guest artist Chile One added an additional layer of entertainment to the event. This created an exciting and diverse atmosphere that showcased Zambia's tourism.

And in his remarks, Dr Milambo highlighted Zambia's long-standing membership in the UN and stated that it was opportune time to reflect on the country's achievements and the impact made so far on the international stage.

He underscored the significant strides Zambia has made in the UN, which have contributed to the promotion of peace, security, and sustainable development around the world.

The Permanent Representative stated that Zambia's member-

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FOREWORD

Zambia at 60, reflecting on milestones and global achievements

IT IS with great pleasure that we present this special edition newsletter, which highlights two significant milestones in Zambia's history and its journey on the global stage.

As we celebrate Zambia@60, we take a moment to commemorate Zambia's 60 years membership in the United Nations (UN) and reflect on the country's achievements.

In this issue, we also delve into the historic election of Zambia to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), a prestigious election that acknowledges Zambia's credibility and experiences in the field of international trade law.

You will also find articles that explore the country's economic and social developments, including on peacekeeping operations. We also bring to you the story of a remarkable female peacekeeper who showcased immense



Dr Chola Milambo
Permanent Representative/
Ambassador

courage, resilience, and skill when she assisted a local woman in childbirth during a peacekeeping mission.

This commemorative edition also

showcases the important work being done at the UN and worldwide with focus on an event that holds great importance on the global stage - the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA79) which was held at UN Headquarters in New York from 24th to 30th September 2024.

Furthermore, Zambia and Sweden successfully negotiated the Global Digital Compact, which was annexed to the Pact for the Future and officially adopted by the General Assembly.

Also, in this edition, we share Zambia's establishment of diplomatic relations for the first time with Panama, Dominican Republic, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Stay tuned for these and more articles. Your continued support and readership are valuable to us, and we are always open to your feedback and suggestions.

From Page 1

Zambia celebrates 60 years membership in the United Nations

ship in the UN has provided the country with invaluable opportunities for international cooperation, development assistance, and global representation.

Dr Milambo underscored Zambia's role in the promotion of international peace and security, adding that the country has been consistent in advocating for the peaceful resolution of disputes. Zambia is the 20th largest troop contributing country.

He also highlighted some of the achievements in the UN such as the co-facilitation of the Intergovernmental negotiations of the Global Digital Compact (GDC), which was subsequently adopted as an annex to the Pact of the Future in September this year and the country's involvement in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which showcases commitment to promoting sustainable development, social progress, and economic growth. Zambia was elected as a member of ECOSOC last year in June. Zambia was also a member of ECOSOC from 2011 to 2013 and served as president of the Council from 2011 to 2012.

Zambia, during the 78th session of the General Assembly, served as Vice-President of the General Assembly. Zambia had also served as President of the General Assembly from 1984 to 1985.

Currently, Zambia is one of the four countries that are

co-facilitating the Outcome Document of the Fourth Financing for Development (FfD4), which is expected to be a significant framework to advance financing commitments towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and lay a foundation for the financing of the subsequent global development agenda.

Looking back over 60 years ago, Zambia played active roles in various UN bodies, including the UN Security Council (SC), where the country represented the African region. Zambia served as a non-permanent member from 1972 to 1973 and also from 2000 to 2001. Zambia also served a second term on the Security Council from 2000 to 2001.

Meanwhile, Dr Milambo used the opportunity to lobby for support for the candidacy of Zambia's Dr Samuel Munzele Maimbo for the presidency of the African Development Bank (AfDB). Dr Maimbo is endorsed by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and COMESA. The election is scheduled for May 2025.

The Ambassador highlighted Zambia's bid for membership in the UN Human Rights Council for a term running from 2026 to 2028 which he said reflects the country's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights at the national and international levels.

Zambia urges multilateral action on peace, development, and equity at UN General Assembly



Hon. Haimbe addresses the General Debate of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 28th September 2024

HONOURABLE Mulambo Haimbe, SC, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, on 28 September 2024, addressed the high-level General Debate of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The theme for this year's General Debate was: "Leaving no one behind: Acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for present and future generations."

Hon. Haimbe, who was representing President Hakainde Hichilema, underscored that multilateralism is the only viable approach for resolving regional and international challenges.

He noted that the creation of the United Nations almost 80 years ago provided new hope for the international community in the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion of justice, and the improvement of living conditions for all people.

Hon. Haimbe also highlighted that

the impact of conflict in some parts of the world has been felt across Africa through disruptions and soaring prices of key commodities such as energy and other inputs of trade and production, resulting in an increased cost of living.

At the regional level, the Minister underscored the crucial role Zambia played as Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation for the period August 2023 to August 2024.

He observed that the security and political situation in the region remains stable, with pockets of security challenges in some Member States, such as the situation in the eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique.

Furthermore, Zambia recognised the efforts of His Excellency João Manuel Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, as the African Union Mediator in the facilitation of the Luanda Process

aimed at restoring peace and security in the eastern DRC, as well as the Nairobi Process, which also aims to foster peace in the DRC.

Hon. Haimbe said the need for the full actualisation of the Loss and Damage Fund to help developing countries cope with climate-related disasters and extreme weather events cannot be over-emphasised.

He called for further reforms to streamline the existing G-20 Framework for Debt Restructuring to enhance certainty and reduce the time it takes to conclude the process.

Zambia also joined calls for the reform of the international financial architecture to make it fit-for-purpose and equitably address the development needs of all countries in the 21st century.

Hon. Haimbe said international tax cooperation could significantly reduce illicit financial flows, a scourge that deprives economies – especially those in the developing world – of critical funding for development.

The Minister noted that Zambia, together with Sweden, negotiated a Global Digital Compact, which was adopted by the General Assembly.

He added that Zambia continues to make strides in the campaign to end child marriage by 2030 and safeguard the rights of girls by enacting relevant legislation to address the vice.

Hon. Haimbe further noted that, with President Hichilema being the African Union Champion on Ending Child Marriage, Zambia was pleased to report that the campaign was growing from strength to strength, with 32 of the 54 countries on the continent having launched national campaigns to end the vice.

He affirmed the need to reform the Security Council to better equip and strengthen its capacity to discharge its responsibilities of maintaining and safeguarding international peace and security.



Zambia elected member of UNCITRAL

ZAMBIA has been elected as a member of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) during elections held at the UN Headquarters on 20th November 2024.

Zambia got the highest votes of the African States with 176 votes.

Other countries elected from the African States included Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, who garnered 175 votes each. Mauritania and Sierra Leone who polled 174 votes while Burundi managed 172, with Congo and South Africa polling 171 and 168, respectively.

Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Vietnam, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea were also elected to represent the Asia-Pacific States while Hungary and the Russian Federation will represent the Eastern European States.

Latin America and the Caribbean States will be represented by Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Peru, Mexico, Bolivia, and Uruguay. Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Canada, Sweden, and France will represent the Western European and other states.

The election of Zambia as a Member State of UNCITRAL will enable Zambia's participation in all of UNCITRAL's activities such as the formulation of Model Laws, charting the course of the work of UNCITRAL, capacity-building and trainings, as well as enhanced access to the various mechanisms for investor-State dispute resolution. This is a momentous occasion for Zambia as this enhances Zambia's standing as a key player in world affairs, international trade, and the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNCITRAL was established in 1966 under the General Assembly with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law. Its impact in reducing or removing obstacles to the seamless flow of international trade is unquestionable.

Zambia champions global digital governance as UN adopts landmark compact

THE United Nations General Assembly officially adopted the Global Digital Compact (GDC), which was annexed to the Pact for the Future during the historic Summit of the Future held at the UN Headquarters on 22nd September 2024 in New York.

In the Pact for the Future and its annexes, which included the Global Digital Compact, which Zambia through its Permanent Representative to the UN Dr Chola Milambo, and Ambassador Anne Karin Eneström, then Permanent Representative of Sweden successfully negotiated, the international community has committed to promote peace and security, invigorate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), foster just and inclusive societies, and ensure that technology always serves the common good of humankind, among others.

The GDC, a comprehensive framework for global governance of digital technology and artificial intelligence, was developed twenty years after the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). It charts a roadmap for global digital cooperation to harness the immense potential of digital technology, aiming to connect everyone to the Internet and close digital divides.

The GDC complements and renews existing mechanisms like the WSIS Process and Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Secretariat to advance global digital cooperation.

It commits governments to upholding international law and human rights online and to taking concrete steps to make the digital space safe and secure for all.

The GDC breaks new ground with commitments for Global Digital Governance in areas like Artificial Intelligence, Data Governance and Digital Public Infrastructure.

The compact aims to connect all people, schools, and hospitals to the Internet, make digital technologies accessible and affordable, and increase investment in digital public goods and infrastructure.

In building an inclusive digital space, the compact seeks to strengthen legal and policy frameworks to protect children online, ensure the Internet remains open and secure, and promote access to independent and fact-based information.

The GDC further seeks to strengthen international data governance by supporting the development of interoperable national data governance frameworks.



Hon. Haimbe signing a joint communiqué establishing diplomatic relations with Panama (top), the Dominican Republic (above), and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Zambia forges new ties with three nations

THE Republic of Zambia has established diplomatic relations with the Dominican Republic, Panama, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Honourable Mulambo Haimbe, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, signed the Joint Communiqués formally establishing the diplomatic relations

on the margins of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York recently.

The parties to the joint communiqués expressed confidence that the establishment of diplomatic relations would contribute to the development of bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefit of the countries.



Hon. Tayali (L) and his Angolan counterpart sign the Lobito Corridor Railway Development Concessioneing Agreement with the Africa Finance Corporation in New York in September.

Zambia, Angola sign Lobito Corridor rail deal to boost regional connectivity

TRANSPORT and logistics minister Frank Tayali, M.P, and his Angolan counterpart Ricardo Daniel Sandao Queiros de Abreu last month signed the Lobito Corridor Railway Development Concessioneing Agreement with the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) in New York.

The signing ceremony took place on the margins of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly.

The AFC, the lead developers of the project, was represented by its President and Chief Executive Officer Samaila Zubairu.

Speaking after the ceremony, Honourable Tayali described the event as a milestone as it now concludes the envisaged desire for Zambia to be a transport and logistics hub.

The AFC announced the completion of the key feasibility study and signed a concession agreement with the governments of Zambia and Angola to develop and operate the rail. The new transportation infrastructure will connect the two countries for the first time and is expected to commence in early 2026. The connectivity will unlock Zambia's Copperbelt and spur economic integration and inclusive growth across borders.

At the same event, the US Trade and Development Agency announced a \$2 million grant for an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the rail project, which will ensure it is delivered according to the highest international standards.

Meanwhile, Hon Tayali, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation minister Hon Mulambo Haimbe and infrastructure minister Hon Charles Milupi attended a Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGI) Lobito Corridor roundtable hosted by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. The high-level discussion advanced the PGI's flagship Lobito Corridor, aiming to develop trans-continental connectivity from the Atlantic to Indian Oceans.

Participants included the foreign affairs ministers of Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia, the European Partnerships Commissioner, and the Italian Vice Foreign Minister, alongside the CEO of the Africa Finance Corporation and the Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Human Development of the African Development Bank (AfDB). Dr Lawrence Mwananyanda, President Hakainde Hichilema's Special Assistant for Project Implementation and Monitoring, was also in attendance.

The roundtable showcased the Consortium's progress on the Lobito Corridor since the signing of the seven-side Memorandum of Understanding for infrastructure investment last year. This included key milestones for the new Greenfield Zambia-Lobito Railway Line, building toward the continent's first open-access rail network.



Foreign affairs minister Hon. Haimbe (left) and Dr. Samuel Munzele Maimbo (above) speak at an event in New York to lobby support for Dr. Maimbo's candidacy in the African Development Bank Presidency election scheduled for May 2025. Dr. Maimbo is endorsed by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and COMESA.

Zambia rallies support for Dr Maimbo's bid to lead African Development Bank

THE Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations in New York recently organised a breakfast event aimed at lobbying support for the candidacy of Zambia's Dr Samuel Munzele Maimbo for presidency of the African Development Bank.

Speaking at the event held on the side-lines of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, foreign affairs and international cooperation minister Honourable Mulambo Haimbe noted that for Africa and non-Africa members of the AfDB to derive the much-desired benefits, its next president should have vast experience in resource mobilisation and a wide network with other financial institutions. He said Dr Maimbo, who is the sole candidate endorsed by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), has vast experience with high financial and development institutions of reputable expertise that will greatly contribute to the leadership of the AfDB.

Dr Maimbo has served for over 21

years at the World Bank and is currently the Vice President responsible for Budget, Performance Review and Strategic Planning.

And Dr Maimbo said he is fully committed to working and partnering with other regional bodies.

In a vote of thanks, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Permanent Secretary (IR&C), Ms Etambuyu Gundersen said Dr Maimbo was the

sole candidate officially adopted at the SADC Summit in August. She said Zambia firmly stands behind Dr Maimbo's candidature and believes that given his excellent professional track record in financing international development, he will transform the AfDB for the benefit of all its member countries. The election is scheduled for May 2025.





Hon Mutati urges private sector tech investment in Zambia

MINISTER of Technology and Science Felix Mutati has appealed to the private sector to invest in Zambia.

And Honourable Mutati has emphasized the potential for high returns on technology investments in Zambia.

Speaking at a private sector engagement organised by the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations in New York, Hon Mutati appealed to the private sector to invest in Zambia, adding that the country has energy deficits and is seeking investments to generate and transmit power.

The Minister highlighted Zambia's focus on digital inclusion, artificial intelligence, and ICT infrastructure, with significant investments already made in these areas.

Meanwhile, Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) Direc-

tor General Albert Halwampa highlighted Zambia's strategic location as one of the attributes making the country a secure investment destination, as well as its stable political environment, and investment opportunities in sectors such as e-mobility, energy and agriculture.

Mr Halwampa also emphasized Zambia's stable exchange rate, political stability and its commitment to international agreements.

The meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, was also attended by Zambia's Permanent Representative to the UN Dr Chola Milambo and senior government officials.



Zambia, USA sign \$458 million farm-to-market compact to boost agriculture and agro-processing

THE Government of the Republic of Zambia and the United States, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), signed the US \$491.75 million Zambia Farm-to-Market Compact, comprised of US\$458 million from the American people and US\$33.75 million given by the Zambian people.

This initiative aims to strengthen Zambia's agriculture and agro-processing sectors by addressing critical challenges such as reducing transport costs for farmers, improving access to agricultural finance, and driving policy reforms to attract private investment.

During the signing ceremony, President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema said the signing of the second Millennium Challenge Compact signified yet another landmark in bilateral cooperation and friendly relations with the people and the Government of the United States of America.

"These bilateral relations have been built on a solid foundation of shared values and principles of democracy, good governance, respect for the rule of law, and the protection of freedoms and rights of citizens. "My Government will continue to uphold these principles, which provide a foundation for a thriving citizenry even as we celebrate 60 years of independence," President Hichilema said.

And Millennium Challenge Corporation Chief Exec-

utive Officer Alice Albright said Zambia's agricultural sector is vital for the country's future.

"MCC is proud of its strong partnership with Zambia and our shared commitment to people-centered development. By scaling efforts to help smallholder farmers access commercial markets and improve agricultural resilience, this Compact will promote inclusive economic growth in local communities and throughout the broader Zambian economy," she said.

Approved by the MCC Board of Directors on September 18, 2024, the Compact will focus on improving road and access infrastructure in key agricultural corridors, lowering the cost of transporting goods to markets. It will also promote access to financing for critical investments, such as electricity, irrigation, logistics, and processing equipment, to help farmers and agro-processors increase productivity.

Additionally, the Compact will support infrastructure projects like mini-grids & cold-chain systems & policy reforms to attract greater private-sector involvement.

By supporting Zambia's agriculture and agro-processing sectors, the Farm-to-Market Compact aligns with the government's priorities of ensuring food and nutrition security, fostering economic growth, creating jobs, and increasing exports.



Zambian contingent ranked as one of the most performing contingents in MINUSCA

A DELEGATION of the Military and Police Advisor's Community (MPAC) conducted a field trip to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), to the African Union (AU) and to the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) from October 29 to November 2024.

The 15-member delegation which was led by Brig General Oliver Musonda, Military Advisor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia, was privileged to be received and briefed at the highest levels of the three visited entities. It gained a good appreciation of the situation on the ground and of the challenges affecting mission implementation. It also increased the understanding of the AU mechanisms and the expectations on new developments in Peacekeeping and Peace Support Operations.

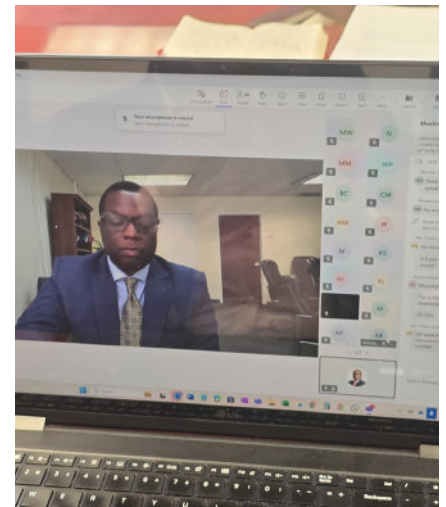
Brig General Musonda addressed the men and women in uniform deployed in Birao on 31st October 2024 and urged them to continue with their hard work.

He expressed happiness with the successes scored by the Zambian Contingent deployed in CAR and encouraged the peacekeepers to continue coordinating with other security wings, humanitarian actors and other UN personnel in carrying out their mandate as they serve the same purpose.

He said the Zambian Contingent has been ranked as one of the most performing contingents in MINUSCA.

The visit to the African Union and the UN Office to the AU allowed for a better understanding of the way in which cooperation between the UN and this regional organization is understood by the AU. It provided another angle of analysis on the prospects for collaboration in the short or medium term, especially regarding resolution 2719 on African led Peacekeeping or Peace Support Operations.





H.E. Dr Chola Milambo moderates a virtual meeting which Hon. Haimbe held with the diaspora community on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly recently.

Haimbe calls for 'strong ties' with diaspora community

MINISTER of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mulambo Haimbe, SC, M.P, has expressed the government's commitment to strengthening its relationship with the diaspora community.

During a virtual meeting held with the United States diaspora community on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Honourable Haimbe underscored the government's commitment to strengthening relations with the diaspora community and encouraged dialogue and collaboration for mutual benefit of all.

He acknowledged the importance of the Zambian diaspora in promoting national interests abroad.

Hon Haimbe also urged the diaspora community to take keen interest in the government's Diaspora Policy, which spells out the community's important role in Zambia's developmental process.

He said it was important that members of the diaspora take advantage of the dual citizenship policy introduced by the government so as not to lose their nationality, and further committed to improving the processing time through Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security.

The Minister underscored the importance of the diaspora community, as ambassadors of the country, to lead exemplary lives. He also stressed the importance of maintaining traditions, language and values while adapting to new environments.

He emphasised the need for strong ties between the diaspora and the home country. He highlighted that the government through the Ministry of Home Affairs is working on mechanisms for online application of passports.

The virtual meeting was also attended by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary - International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Etambuyu Gundersen and Zambia's Permanent Representative to the UN Dr Chola Milambo.

And Clever Kanyanta, president of the Zambian Family Organisation (ZFO), who represented Zambians in the Tri-State (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut), said the diaspora was ready to work with the government so that they play a role in the country's development. He said the diaspora community wants to support the work of government and connect potential investors.

Meanwhile, Cheswa Silwizya, Chief Protocol Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said the government is limited in what it can do regarding deaths, illnesses and mental challenges that face the diaspora community.

Ms Silwizya explained that the government has no budget line and policy for such issues, adding that it only helps facilitate documentation and paperwork. She said that diaspora associations always come together to assist but repatriation is very costly.

Zambian delegation pushes for climate finance and resilience at COP29



Picture: UN

THE Zambian delegation led by Hon. Mike Mposha, MP, Minister of Green Economy and Environment participated in the 29th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change held in Azerbaijan from 11th to 22nd November 2024.

The Conference was held in parallel with the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 19), and the Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 6).

COP29 was dubbed as a Finance COP amid expectations of a candid review of commitments and notable forward-looking progress in the area of climate finance. Other thematic areas such as technology, agriculture, energy children and youth, gender, adaptation and mitigation were discussed in various sessions.

The Permanent Mission was represented by Counsellor Ms.

Mwila M. Daka and the role of the Mission sought to follow discourse on climate finance, the Loss and Damage Fund and help facilitate engagements requested by the United Nations and other Agencies through the Mission in New York.

Some of the side events which the Zambian delegation attended highlighted the need to unlock public and private financing as well as how MDBs and NDBs could be leveraged as not only financiers but also enablers of sustainable development.

The delegations also participated in various bilateral meetings and other events which were beneficial to Zambia.

One such meeting was held with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) where the latter highlighted that it could provide meaningful support to Zambia in advancing its climate agenda, including ways to enhance resilience and sustainable development efforts.



Zambia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr Chola Milambo (2-L), with Ms. Veronica Kamanga Njikho, Coordinator, UNICEF/UNFPA, Global Programme to End Child Marriage (L), Mr Jose Roberto Luna, Programme Advisor, Ending Child Marriage, UNFPA and His Excellency, Ambassador Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN at the 10th Anniversary of the UN General Assembly Resolution on ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage reception in New York.

UN adopts resolution on child marriage with strong global support

THE Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly during its 79th Session saw the adoption of the Resolution on Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM) by consensus, demonstrating a unified stance on addressing this critical human rights issue.

Co-led by Canada and Zambia, the Resolution marked a decade of the collaborative leadership on this matter. It also highlighted global progress while acknowledging challenges that persist, particularly in the face of crises like conflicts, climate change, and economic shocks.

The Resolution received strong support, with 123 countries co-sponsoring it, which showcased broad cross-regional commitment. The Resolution called for actions to prevent and eradicate CEFM, focusing on areas like education, economic empowerment, and addressing root causes such as poverty and gender inequality. The Resolution also underlined the necessity of protecting the rights of married and at-risk girls, particularly in fragile and humanitarian settings.

The Resolution emphasized that CEFM is a severe violation of human rights and a barrier to achieving Sustainable Development Goals, particularly gender equality. It highlighted the risks exacerbated by global crises such as conflicts, climate change, and economic disruptions, which have heightened the vulnerability of girls and women to such practices.

UN honours 'remarkable' Zambian peacekeeper who helped deliver baby in South Sudan

...it's my job to save lives, says Sergeant Hachambwa

By Namatama Njekwa

SOUTH Sudan has been plagued by political instability and armed conflict since its independence on 9th July 2011. Amid the war and internal strife however, a Zambian peacekeeper has been recognised by the United Nations for her exceptional dedication after she helped a South Sudanese woman to safely deliver a baby at the Malakal Protection of Civilian camp.

In an interview, Sergeant Pessina Moono Hachambwa, in her capacity then as Community Policing Officer with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), recalls that around midday on the material day in September, she was on duty at a Protection of Civilians site when she and a colleague were alerted to a woman in labour in a nearby shrub. Sergeant

Hachambwa, who was stationed at the Juliet Gate, instructed that the expectant mother be brought to Juliet Gate for assistance.

The woman was unable to walk but Sergeant Hachambwa, 38 carried her to a nearby closed container to ensure her privacy.

Sergeant Hachambwa's colleague contacted an ambulance and reported the matter through the established chain of command. The ambulance however delayed and Sergeant Hachambwa soon realised that the woman would give birth before it arrived.

Sergeant Hachambwa, herself a mother of three, explains that she helped the woman prepare for birth and with the help of the UN Police team on duty that day, facilitated the delivery of a healthy baby boy. The ambulance arrived soon afterwards and both mother and child were taken to hospital for further medical care.

'I achieved my purpose of being a peacekeeper'

Discussing her experience, Sergeant Hachambwa says despite having no experience as a midwife, she felt dutybound to help the South Sudanese woman.

"This was my very first time helping a lady to give birth. When the lady was brought to me, I was so scared, nervous, confused because I had no idea of midwifery services, I had no instruments to use and also the community was going to rise against UN and my job was going to be affected. Nevertheless, after gathering courage, I decided to sacrifice my life and job to save lives and after a successful childbirth process was completed, I was so excited to have had helped a helpless woman and I felt that I achieved my purpose of being a peacekeeper," Sergeant Hachambwa says.

The sergeant, who checked out of the mission in South Sudan on 10th July 2024 after serving for a year, joined the Zambia Police Service in April 2011.

And in a letter commending Sergeant Hachambwa for her actions, the UN described the Zambian peacekeeper's display of compassion and bravery in assisting in the safe birth of the child as

"truly remarkable" and going "beyond the call of duty".

"Your relentless efforts in coordinating with the ambulance service to ensure the prompt transportation of the mother and her child to the UN Level Two Hospital in Malakal for medical assistance, as well as your subsequent follow-up visit to monitor their progress at the hospital, are deserving of praise," reads a letter to Sergeant Hachambwa from Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under Secretary General, Department of Peace Operations.

He added that Sergeant Hachambwa's actions exemplify the essence of humanity and embodied the core values of UN peacekeeping.

"I applaud your extraordinary commitment that undoubtedly enhanced the confidence of members of the local community in UNMISS' dedication to their well-being," said Mr Lacroix.

Sergeant Hachambwa says she felt "ecstatically happy and honoured" to be recognised by the UN.

"I never thought it was going to be a big thing because in me all I was looking forward to was to help my fellow lady who was helpless, as well as saving the baby's life and to protect the name of UN and me from being called incompetent. As you are aware, conflict related maternal deaths are common in peacekeeping missions for obvious reasons. Health facilities aren't easily accessible [and there is] lack of knowledge on how to keep safe during pregnancy," she says.

Sergeant Hachambwa has since advised other peacekeepers to give themselves wholly to service.

"Be ready to face complex situations and develop a strong sense of problem-solving precept with the skills because situations in conflict areas are dynamic. To all Zambian categories of peacekeepers, never relent in discharging your duties magnanimously," says Sergeant Hachambwa. "Continue raising the [Zambian] flag high. Through your office, kindly I request the Zambia Police Service and the Government at large to recognize their officers if they get recognized by the United Nations."





PHOTO FOCUS

Zambia @  Celebrating 60 years membership in the UN
21/11/24 New York



PHOTO FOCUS





Zambia Under 20 Women's team crowned COSAFA champion

ZAMBIA Under 20 Women National team won the COSAFA Championship 2024 after beating Mozambique 1-0 in their last game at the UJ Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa

According to the Football Association of Zambia, the team concluded the five-team Cosafa tournament with a 1-0 over Mozambique to record a 100% winning record at the games played on a round robin format.

The team's performance has been outstanding from the first whistle, winning all three matches in the five-team tournament. They opened their campaign with a 9-0 win against Lesotho, followed by a 3-0 win against hosts South Africa, and defeated Botswana by 6-0 goals.





Chipolopolo tops AFCON qualifiers group after 2-0 win over Sierra Leone

ZAMBIA has finished top of Group G in the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers after defeating Sierra Leone in Liberia on Tuesday, 19th November 2024.

Goals from midfielder Emmanuel Banda and Kennedy Musonda secured the Chipolopolo boys a 2-0 victory, bringing their total points to 13. Zambia qualified alongside defending AFCON champions Côte d'Ivoire, who finished second with 12 points after a 4-0 win over Chad.

Zambia's win marks an incredible fourth consecutive win following a goalless draw against Chad, a 1-0 win away to Chad, a 1-0 home win against Ivory Coast and 2-0 away win over Sierra Leone.

The 2025 AFCON is slated for Morocco from December 21, 2025, to January 18, 2026.

Pictures: Football Association of Zambia



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