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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Eighth session

Agenda item 6

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Zambia

Addendum

**Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented
by the State under review**

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

1. The Republic of Zambia welcomed the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the active participation of States that characterised its review. The Council was invited to note that while Zambia faces a number of wide ranging challenges in promoting and protecting all human rights within its territory, it has undergone positive changes in the area of human rights.
2. This can be seen from the consultative process that was undertaken in the preparation of the national report for the UPR; the plans Zambia put in place in the Fifth National Development Plan relating to human rights; the importance it places on reporting to both regional and international treaty bodies to which it is a party; and the voluntary commitment made by Zambia to extend a standing invitation to special mandate holders on human rights, to mention but a few.
3. Under paragraph 59 of the report of the Working Group (A/HRC/8/39/Add.2), Zambia undertook to examine 11 recommendations and to provide its responses thereon at the present session of the Council. These responses are contained in document A/HRC/8/39/Add.2.
4. With regard to the recommendation to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Zambia was pleased to report that it has signed the Convention in May 2008.
5. In conclusion, Zambia reiterated its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is in this regard that Zambia pledges its continued commitment to improving the situation of human rights within its territory and welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Council.
6. H.E. Mrs. Gertrude M.K. Imbwae, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice concluded by stating that the Republic of Zambia thanked all the countries that have contributed to the successful review of Zambia during the Universal Periodic Review and that it appreciates the recommendations and statements that have been made by States and civil society organizations. Zambia considers dialogue as an effective tool for dealing with issues, including those that relate to human rights. She indicated that Zambia appreciates the role that this process will play in the improvement of human rights and in this regard, called upon the international community to play a positive role in the fulfillment of the objectives of the Universal Periodic Review Process. She also welcomed Zambia re-election to the Council and took this opportunity to thank the international community for the confidence it has in Zambia's ability to contribute to the human rights agenda.
