

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
ON THE  
**THE 37<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT**  
BY THE

**HON. ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL  
CORPORATION (MR HAIMBE, SC.), MP**

Madam Speaker, I wish to report to this august House that Zambia was among the fifty-four African Union (AU) Member States that participated in the 37<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The summit was held from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 under the AU theme of the year for 2024’

“Educate an African—

I will name all of you, Hon. Members, at one time, who entertain other hon. Members not to walk in quietly and resume their seats but shake hands. We need to have order in the House. Madam Speaker, the summit was held from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 under the AU theme of the year for 2024’;

“Educate an African fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality and Relevant Learning in Africa.”

Madam Speaker, as per practice, the Summit was preceded by the 44<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, comprising Ministers of Foreign Affairs of AU Member States held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, and the 47<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), composed of Permanent Representatives accredited to the AU held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

Madam Speaker, the Assembly also endorsed the appointment of Amb. Inonge Mbikusita Lewanika, another Zambian, as the Chairperson of the Pan African Peer Review Panel of Eminent Persons for a one-year period.

Madam Speaker, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia also participated in the Heads of State and Government dialogue on establishing African union financial institutions in the context of Africa's agenda for global financial architecture reforms. During the dialogue, His Excellency the President called for Africa to assert its financial independence through the establishment of the African central bank. The meeting also called for reforms of the global financial institutions, including the need to lower the cost of capital for African countries.

Madam Speaker, in addition to attending the summit and other high level events on the margins of the summit, the President also held several engagements with key dignitaries including, amongst others; His Excellency the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mr Felix Tshisekedi Tshilombo, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Mr Paul Kagame, the Rt. Hon. Sam Matekane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Mrs Victoria Kwakwa, World Bank Regional Vice-President for Eastern and Southern Africa and Ms Catherine Molly Phee, United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

Madam Speaker, in addition to the above, I wish to report that I also held bilateral engagements with my counterpart from Somalia, the Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel and the Special Representative on African Affairs of the People's Republic of China, among others.

Madam Speaker, during these meetings, various issues of key interest to Zambia in the areas of agriculture, support towards Zambia's debt restructuring process, infrastructure development, candidature support and peace and security were discussed.

Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Health, Mrs Sylvia Masebo, MP, further held bilateral meetings with Ms Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and Dr Natalia Kanem, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UNFPA. In addition, the Hon. Minister of Health participated in a second-high level ministerial forum of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), which accorded an opportunity for interactive dialogue on matters relating to health on the continent as whole. Further, the other hon. Ministers who were present at the AU Summit held various bilateral meetings in various sectors of interest to the republic.

Madam Speaker, the 37<sup>th</sup> AU Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Governments concluded with a strong commitment to address the continent's challenges, prioritise key areas and solidify international diplomacy.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I wish to state that the AU continues to be a vital platform for African nations to come together, share experiences and work collectively toward a prosperous and peaceful Africa. As we reflect on the outcomes of the 37<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Summit, let us remain steadfast in our pursuit of ways that our nation can continue to reap the benefits of being a member of this continental organisation.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.

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