

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
ON THE  
**THE VISIT TO UKRAINE AND RUSSIA BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF ZAMBIA HIS EXCELLENCY MR HAKAINDE HICHILEMA**  
BY THE  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION (MR  
KAKUBO), MP

Madam Speaker, first of all, I wish to express my gratitude to you, Madam, for allowing me to present to this august House a statement on the visit to Russia and Ukraine by His Excellency Mr Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia.

Madam Speaker, in line with the country's foreign policy, the Zambian Government remains deeply committed to promoting peace, security, stability, regionally, continentally, globally and globally as a catalyst for socio-economic development. This includes the Russia/Ukraine War and the various peace and security situations across our continent African where the President has already been involved in preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution, peacemaking and peace building.

In this light, His Excellency the President Mr Hichilema joined the Presidents of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, the Union of the Comoros President, His Excellency Mr Azali Assoumani and the President of the Republic of Senegal His Excellency, Mr Macky Sall. The delegation also comprised the Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt Hon. Mostafa Madbouly, Hon. Jean-Claude Gakosso, Foreign Minister from Congo Brazzaville and also Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, Special Envoy and Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda

Madam Speaker, Peace Initiative draws upon African's own track record of resolving conflicts by encouraging open dialogue and negotiations between Russia and Ukraine. The African peace Initiative is motivated by the humanitarian crisis and the far-reaching consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict which includes disruptions to African's commodity supply chains.

As this House is aware, Madam Speaker, Zambia together with other African countries has been adversely affected by the disruptions in the supply chain resulting in food insecurity due to the rising costs of grain and fertilizers. Unfortunately, also, Madam Speaker, the human cost of war includes loss of lives, especially on women and children who are defenseless and displacement of families. In this, I refer to forced migration and the destruction of countries and property.

Madam Speaker, development cooperation programmes to developing countries such as ours also tend to be negatively affected when resources are being directed to war, peace and security. In recognition of this, Madam Speaker, His Excellency President Hichilema has embraced the African Peace Initiative seeking to contribute to global peace for that creation of a conducive environment for the economic and social prosperity of all people.

Madam Speaker, during the visit to Russia and Ukraine, the African Peace Initiative (API) Delegation held discussions with both President Putin and also with President Zelensky. In the discussions of their mission, African Leaders underscored and prioritised to listen to honest conversations to understand both the priorities of Russia and the priorities of Ukraine and also to understand their perspectives on the war. This was a first step of Africa's contribution to other global initiatives aimed at ending this war. Every war must come to an end, Madam Speaker.

In their engagements with the two world leaders, the presidential delegation from Africa emphasised the need to consider dialogue and the process to negotiate as a means to end this conflict. They also addressed the repatriation of war victims, women and children that have already been displaced while recognising that the world also has profound responsibility to contribute towards post-war reconstruction.

Madam Speaker, I wish to emphasise at this point that the API to Russia and Ukraine is not an isolated initiative, but one of the several global efforts that are currently under way under which

His Excellency President Hichilema and other world leaders are already involved in to promote peace, security and stability for the world at large.

Madam, African is fully seized with efforts aimed at resolving conflicts through its already established mechanisms under the auspices of the African Union (AU), the Southern Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) under which His Excellency President Hichilema is the Chairperson and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGR), among others.

Madam Speaker, as an active Member of these organisations, Zambia is already involved and remains totally committed to initiatives and efforts aimed at addressing various peace and security situations on the African Continent such as the unfortunate conflict in Sudan, the ongoing situation in Eastern the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and also in Ogaden Arid Region in Northern Mozambique. The House may recall that this Government was compelled to repatriate Zambian nationals from Sudan not long ago following the outbreak of war.

In this regard, His Excellency President Hichilema will assume Chairmanship of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in August this year and this will give him another opportunity to coordinate peace initiatives in the region. Going forward, Madam Speaker, His Excellency the President will continue engaging his counterparts and other African leaders to facilitate dialogue areas of conflict in our continent while urging the global community to explore all possible avenues to end the devastating war between Russia and Ukraine.

Madam Speaker, as I get closer to conclude, I wish to affirm the importance of upholding fundamental principles of territorial integrity among nations, respect of borders and peaceful disputes settlement as outlined by the African Union Constitutive Act and also the United Nations Charter. Zambia continues to leverage on our own country's established experience in conflict resolution and promotion of peace, security, stability within the region and beyond and also stand with others in their time of difficulty an most importantly to protect our own country's interests.

Madam Speaker, recognising the interdependence of nations conflicts elsewhere do affect Zambia's socio-economic and wellbeing of our own people. As his Excellency President continues to says:

“Instability anywhere is instability everywhere.”

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

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