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Republic of Zambia

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY HON HARRY KALABA, MP, MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ON THE MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENTS HELD FROM MARCH TO JUNE, 2015**

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

LUSAKA

JUNE, 2015

Mr. Speaker,

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs being the interface of Government with the international community, is under obligation to maintain good relations and strengthening cooperation with cooperating partners, regional and multilateral bodies for sustainable growth, peace and security for our country. Based on the new national Foreign Policy, emphasis is more on economic diplomacy as opposed to political diplomacy. It is in this regard that the Ministry shall strive to use all diplomatic means in furthering Zambia's international, commercial and trade relations in the international arena.

Mr. Speaker,

In line with the mandate of the Ministry, since this House went on recess, His Excellency the President through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the African Union Committee of Ten (C10) Heads of State and Government Summit on the reforms of the United Nations Security Council in Livingstone from 8th to 9th May, 2015. His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia co-chaired the Summit with his counterpart, His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and also the current Coordinator of the C-10.

Other AU C-10 Member States represented were Namibia, with His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob President of Namibia, while Libya was

represented by His Excellency Mr. Ihmed H. Homa, Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Deputy President of the State of Libya. The other C-10 countries were represented at the level of Foreign Minister.

Mr. Speaker,

The main reason of the Livingstone summit was to enable the C-10 Heads of State to consider reports of the C-10 member countries who were paired in five groups for consultations with the United Nations Permanent Five Security Council (P-5) Member States namely China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States of America on matters relating to the African Common Position on the reform of the UN Security Council. The House may wish to know that all the recommendations of the Livingstone Summit were approved by the just ended African Union Summit in South Africa.

Mr. Speaker,

Allow me to also report to this August house that His Excellency the President participated in the Extra-Ordinary Summit of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on 18th May 2015 in Luanda Angola.

The Purpose of the Summit was to review the Security and Humanitarian Situation in the Region, with special focus on the Republic of Burundi, The Central African Republic, The Democratic

Republic of Congo (DRC), The Republic of South Sudan, and the growing threat of terrorism in the region.

The Summit was attended by six sitting Heads of State, that included Angola, Zambia, South Sudan, DRC, South Africa, (though not a member of ICGLR) and Interim President of the Central African Republic. The rest of the Member States were represented by Ministers. The Republic of Burundi did not attend as it was at the time experiencing instability, because of a purported coup that had just been reported.

Mr. Speaker,

Some of the key outcomes of the Summit were that the countries of the ICGLR condemn and reject the take-over of any member state government through military force; and that the Summit delegated the Heads of State of South Africa, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to Burundi to assess the situation and contribute to the peaceful resolution of the current crisis. The Summit further appealed to Burundi to stop all on-going acts of violence and to postpone the Elections to allow for the establishment of a conducive environment for conducting of credible and transparent Elections. The Summit also decided to relocate the Conference Secretariat temporarily from Burundi to another State to ensure the safety of staff until such time that the situation stabilised.

The house may wish to know that the security situation in the Great Lakes region remains a matter of significance to Zambia as it hinges

on the peace and stability of the region and should be carefully monitored as it has the potential to spill over into Zambia.

Mr. Speaker,

In closing I wish to state that my Ministry stands ready to work with other line Ministries and Government institutions to promote and foster national development through our interactions with the international community.

I THANK YOU