

**VERY
URGENT**



PRESIDENT LUNGU REINS IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL COMPOSITION

New York, (Thursday, 26th September, 2019)-----His Excellency, Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia has reined in the non-inclusion of Africa on the Security Council.

Presenting a highly emotive statement covering a plethora of key issues affecting Zambia, Africa and the entire world at the Plenary of the High Level Segment of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, the President stated that the absence of Africa on the Security Council is an omission that is flawed and cannot continue to be entertained.

The President called for urgent reforming of the United Nations Security Council.

"To be effective and efficient there is need to reform the United Nations, particularly as we will, over the coming year, commemorate its 75 years of existence, and reflect on its future," the President quipped.

President Lungu bluntly added, "Time has come for the Security Council to be representative, democratic and accountable to all member states, irrespective of status. This is essential for its integrity as the custodian of international peace."

The justification if need be is "that Africa constitutes the second largest bloc of the UN membership."

With a population of 1.2 billion people, President Lungu wondered how Africa has no presence on the UN Security Council.

The UN Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the UN charged with ensuring peace and security, accepting new members to the United Nations and approving changes to its Charter.

Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations and international sanctions, as well as, the authorisation of military action. It is the only UN body with authority to issuing binding resolutions to member states.

Permanent members to the Security Council are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

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