



Republic of Zambia

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,**

**DURING THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
BY NEWLY APPOINTED HEADS OF MISSION OF VARIOUS
COUNTRIES
TO BE HELD AT STATE HOUSE,**

THURSDAY, ON 3RD OCTOBER, 2019

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I WELCOME YOUR EXCELLENCIES TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, AND I WISH TO EXTEND MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RECENT APPOINTMENT AS HEADS OF MISSION ACCREDITED TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA.

ZAMBIA ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE, WHICH ARE BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT, TRUST AND COOPERATION AT BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL LEVELS.

THEREFORE, I AM CONFIDENT THAT DURING YOUR TENURE IN ZAMBIA, THE EXISTING WARM RELATIONS AND BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH YOUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES WILL BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED.

ALL OUR COUNTRIES ASPIRE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND STABILITY, AS WELL AS FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR PEOPLES. THESE IDEALS AS OUTLINED IN THE UNITED NATIONS **2030** AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG'S) AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS REQUIRE THAT WE COLLABORATE CLOSELY TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT, AND RESOLVE GLOBAL CHALLENGES RELATED TO CONFLICTS AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES.

I THEREFORE INVITE YOUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO PARTNER WITH US, AS WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES WHICH ARE CLEARLY ARTICULATED IN ZAMBIA'S SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

I WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO AN ISSUE THAT REQUIRES OUR COOPERATION. THE JUST ENDED UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT, WHICH I WAS PRIVILEGED TO ATTEND, RESOLVED TO ACCELERATE OUR MOMENTUM TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS.

THE COMMITMENTS RANGED FROM CUTTING CARBON EMISSIONS, SCALING UP FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND, AND INCLUDED AN UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL OF PRIVATE SECTOR PLEDGES OF COMMITMENTS.

THERE IS NEED FOR US TO MAINTAIN THIS MOMENTUM AS THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO UNDERMINE OUR DEVELOPMENTAL GAINS. I THEREFORE, URGE YOUR EXCELLENCIES TO WORK WITH US, AS WE DILIGENTLY TACKLE THIS PHENOMENON THAT AFFECTS US ALL.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

AT THIS JUNCTURE, LET ME ADDRESS YOU INDIVIDUALLY.

**1. YOUR EXCELLENCY DR. ANTONINO MAGGIORE,
AMBASSADOR OF ITALY TO ZAMBIA:**

I AM CERTAIN THAT ZAMBIA'S STRONG COLLABORATION WITH ITALY WILL CONTINUE TO SHAPE OUR RELATIONS AS WE STRIVE TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

ZAMBIA'S BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH ITALY HAS LED TO ITALIAN COMPANIES INVESTING IN THE DAIRY INDUSTRY, AND IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR WHILE SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE COMPANIES ARE OPERATING IN AGRICULTURE, TOURISM, CONSULTING, SERVICES, TRANSPORT AND FISHING.

IN THIS REGARD, I WISH TO APPEAL FOR ITALIAN INVESTORS TO SET UP JOINT VENTURES WITH ZAMBIANS, OR PARTNER WITH GOVERNMENT THROUGH PRIVATE-PUBLIC-PARTNERSHIPS OR FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT.

ZAMBIA OFFERS A FAVOURABLE INVESTMENT CLIMATE, AND HAS AN ADVANTAGE DUE TO ITS UNIQUE CENTRAL LOCATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA OFFERING ACCESS TO THE WIDER REGIONAL MARKET.

2. YOUR EXCELLENCY AZEVEDO XAVIER FRANCISCO, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO ZAMBIA:

ZAMBIA AND ANGOLA SHARE LONG STANDING RELATIONS FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD, MUTUAL RESPECT, AND THE DESIRE TO PURSUE DEVELOPMENTAL POLICIES FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY FOR OUR PEOPLES.

I THEREFORE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE VARIOUS ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS RELATED PROJECTS THAT WE HAVE EMBARKED ON COME TO FRUITION DURING YOUR TENURE. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE LAST JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION.

THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENT WHICH ALLOWS ZAMBIANS AND ANGOLANS TO TRAVEL WITHOUT VISAS IS A CLEAR TESTIMONY OF THE WILLINGNESS OF OUR COUNTRIES TO WORK TOGETHER.

**3. YOUR EXCELLENCY, PASCAL RUHOMVYUMWORO,
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI:**

MY GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUE ENGAGING WITH BURUNDI AT BILATERAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS.

ZAMBIA, LIKE BURUNDI, IS RICH IN MINERAL RESOURCES. THEREFORE, IT IS PARAMOUNT THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES COLLABORATE IN EXPLOITING THE IMMENSE POTENTIAL IN OUR MINING INDUSTRIES, AND TO PURSUE VALUE ADDITION TO THIS IMPORTANT SECTOR.

TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAS GRADUALLY BEEN EXPANDING OVER THE YEARS, AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I WISH TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER INVESTMENT BETWEEN OUR GROWING ECONOMIES, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN ZAMBIA IS DIVERSIFYING ITS ECONOMY.

**4. YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. NICHOLAS KERRISON WOOLEY, HIGH
COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE REPUBLIC
OF ZAMBIA:**

MY GOVERNMENT VALUES THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, A REFLECTION OF OUR LONGSTANDING RELATIONS.

ZAMBIA REMAINS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT RENDERED TO THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA. THIS SUPPORT HAS BEEN RENDERED TO KEY SECTORS SUCH AS HEALTH, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAMMES, PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMES.

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY GOVERNMENT'S PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, TO RESUME FUNDING TO ZAMBIA'S HEALTH SECTOR IN THE WAKE OF FINANCIAL REFORMS THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN PLACE. THIS WILL INDEED HELP ZAMBIA ATTAIN ITS INTENDED UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL.

5. YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. ALPHEUS MATLHAKU, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO ZAMBIA:

AS MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) ORGAN TROIKA ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION, ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA HAVE A MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE PROMOTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE SADC REGION.

OUR GOVERNMENTS WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION OF OUR REGION, AS WELL AS ENHANCING TRADE AND INVESTMENT AT BILATERAL LEVEL.

AS BOTSWANA HEADS TO THE POLLS THIS MONTH, OCTOBER, I WISH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA, A PEACEFUL ELECTORAL PROCESS REFLECTIVE OF BOTSWANA'S MATURE DEMOCRACY.

6. YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. GEORGE NKOSINATI TWALA, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF SOUTH AFRICA:

BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA HAVE CONTINUED TO GROW FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH OVER THE YEARS, AS EVIDENCED BY THE EXCHANGE OF HIGH LEVEL VISITS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

IN THIS REGARD, I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING MY COUNTERPART, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. CYRIL RAMAPHOSA AT THE 1ST ZAMBIA - SOUTH AFRICA BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION (BNC) MEETING. THIS PLATFORM WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO FULLY HARNESS OUR ECONOMIC POTENTIAL.

7. YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. JACEK JANKOWSKI, HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO ZAMBIA AND COMESA:

THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTINUES TO BE A PIVOTAL PARTNER IN ZAMBIA'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA. OUR COOPERATION IN POVERTY REDUCTION, GOOD GOVERNANCE ISSUES, AND IMPROVING OVERALL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS, HAS BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL VEHICLE IN THE ZAMBIA - EUROPEAN UNION RELATIONS

I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THIS COOPERATION HAS BEEN ENHANCED THROUGH THE REGULAR HOSTING OF THE ZAMBIA – EUROPEAN UNION POLITICAL DIALOGUE.

ALLOW ME THEREFORE TO EXPRESS MY GOVERNMENT'S SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR THE CONTINUED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT RENDERED TO ZAMBIA ESPECIALLY IN KEY SECTORS SUCH AS ENERGY, WATER AND SANITATION PROJECTS, PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, HIV/AIDS PROGRAMMES, AS WELL AS GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAMMES.

8. YOUR EXCELLENCY MS. ANNA MAJ GABRIELLA HULTGÅRD, AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA:

ZAMBIA AND SWEDEN CONTINUE TO SHARE STRONG BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO DEVELOPMENTAL COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

SWEDEN'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH ZAMBIA SEEKS TO SUPPORT OUR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES WHICH INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW, AMONG OTHERS.

I AM, HOWEVER, KEEN TO SEE GREATER COOPERATION IN FOSTERING TRADE AND INVESTMENT AIMED AT JOB CREATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION, DURING YOUR TOUR OF DUTY, FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

9. YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. SANTIAGO GOMEZ-ACEBO RODRIGUEZ-SPITERI, AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN TO ZAMBIA

I AM AWARE THAT ZAMBIA AND SPAIN HAVE CONTINUED TO COOPERATE IN VARIOUS FIELDS. I WISH TO APPLAUD THE SIGNING OF THE TOURISM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN 2018.

THIS YOUR EXCELLENCY, WILL DEFINITELY TRANSFORM THE TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURAL SECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA INTO A VIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY CAPABLE OF SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP), JOB CREATION AND ABOVE ALL, POVERTY REDUCTION.

IT IS THEREFORE, MY HOPE THAT THE GOOD RELATIONS WE ENJOY WILL BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED THROUGH SIMILAR COOPERATION.

10. YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. KHALIFA ABDURAMAN AL-MARZOOGI, OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:

ZAMBIA AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES HAVE CONTINUED TO ENJOY WARM AND CORDIAL RELATIONS WHICH HAVE CREATED A PLATFORM FOR STRENGTHENED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

THERE IS STILL POTENTIAL FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS, INCLUDING FINANCE, MINING, ENERGY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE TOURISM SECTOR.

IN THIS REGARD, MY GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO LEARNING BEST PRACTICES IN THESE AND OTHER SECTORS, AS ZAMBIA STRIVES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. I, URGE YOUR EXCELLENCY TO CONTINUE ENGAGING THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA, AS WELL AS VARIOUS PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS, TO PROMOTE FURTHER TRADE AND INVESTMENTS IN THE COUNTRY.

I ALSO WISH TO REAFFIRM THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING IN THE FORTHCOMING EXPO 2020, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN DUBAI. THIS WILL SERVE TO REINFORCE DUBAI'S POSITION AS A MAJOR TRADING HUB IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ZAMBIA WILL JOIN OTHER COUNTRIES IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE BUSINESS AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE EXPO WILL PROVIDE.

11. YOUR EXCELLENCY MRS. MARIE-ANTOINETTE ROSE-QUATRE, AMBASSADOR OF SEYCHELLES TO ZAMBIA:

IN RECENT TIMES, ZAMBIA AND SEYCHELLES HAVE COOPERATED IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR THROUGH THE SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN EDUCATION. THIS MOU RESULTED IN ZAMBIAN TEACHERS WORKING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON SEYCHELLES' THREE MAIN ISLANDS.

IT IS MY ARDENT HOPE THAT DURING YOUR TENURE OF OFFICE, YOU WILL ENHANCE THE EXISTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS BY EXPLORING FURTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION AND BOOSTING TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

12. YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. VU NGOC MINH, AMBASSADOR OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM:

I AM AWARE THAT VIETNAM HAS EXPERIENCED RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH SINCE THE EARLY **1990S** AND ACHIEVED A LOWER MIDDLE-INCOME STATUS THEREBY HELPING TO LIFT MORE THAN **40** MILLION PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY.

AGRICULTURE REMAINS A KEY SOURCE OF VIETNAMESE NATIONAL INCOME AND EMPLOYS MORE THAN HALF THE WORKFORCE. WHILE APPRECIATING THE WARM RELATIONS WE ENJOY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ENHANCE COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND OTHER SECTORS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF OUR TWO PEOPLES.

13. YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. MARLON JOSÉ PENA LABRADOR, AMBASSADOR OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO ZAMBIA:

VENEZUELA REMAINS HIGHLY ENDOWED WITH OIL RESERVES WHICH CONTRIBUTE ROUGHLY **90** PERCENT OF EXPORT EARNINGS, AND HAS VAST EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATION, FISHING, MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I LOOK FORWARD TO ZAMBIA EXPLORING VARIOUS WAYS TO DERIVE ENORMOUS BENEFITS FROM COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS.

14. YOUR EXCELLENCY GEN. EDOUARD, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA TO ZAMBIA:

ZAMBIA AND GUINEA ENJOY CORDIAL RELATIONS AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THESE RELATIONS EXPAND TO INCLUDE TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN SECTORS SUCH AS VALUE ADDITION AND MANUFACTURING AS BOTH OUR COUNTRIES STRIVE TO DIVERSIFY THEIR ECONOMIES AWAY FROM RELIANCE ON THE MINING SECTOR.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT ZAMBIA AND GUINEA WILL FURTHER ENGAGE IN AREAS OF COOPERATION THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES CAN EXPLORE TO REACH THE DESIRED GOAL OF ATTAINING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR TWO PEOPLES.

**15. YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. ACISCLO VALLADARES
MOLINA, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
TO ZAMBIA:**

ZAMBIA AND GUATEMALA ENJOY CORDIAL RELATIONS BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND SHARED INTEREST. THE TWO COUNTRIES SHARE COMMON ASPIRATIONS FOCUSED ON IMPROVING INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR ECONOMIES, AMONG OTHERS. THESE SHARED ASPIRATIONS PRESENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE VARIOUS AREAS OF COOPERATION FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

I AM CONFIDENT THAT IN YOUR TOUR OF DUTY YOU SHALL NOT ONLY BUILD ON THE FOUNDATIONS LAID BY YOUR RESPECTIVE PREDECESSORS, BUT ALSO LOOK FOR NEW WAYS TO FURTHER CONSOLIDATE ZAMBIA'S RELATIONS WITH EACH OF YOUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, AT BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL LEVELS.

THEREFORE, I WISH TO REAFFIRM MY GOVERNMENT'S UNWAVERING SUPPORT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO FACILITATE YOUR WORK AND ENSURE THAT YOUR RESPECTIVE TOURS OF DUTY YIELD TANGIBLE RESULTS.

ONCE AGAIN, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, I WISH TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA; ENJOY OUR RENOWNED WARM HOSPITALITY AND PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU TAKE TIME TO EXPLORE THE NUMEROUS EXCITING TOURIST SITES, ACROSS THE COUNTRY. I WISH YOU ALL A SUCCESSFUL AND REWARDING TOUR OF DUTY. **CONGRATULATIONS, YOUR EXCELLENCIES.**

