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Republic of Zambia

**STATEMENT BY
HONOURABLE VINCENT MWALE M.P. ,
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
AT
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN
DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III)**

QUITO, ECUADOR

17TH – 20^T OCTOBER, 2016

STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE VINCENT MWALE, MP. THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING (ZAMBIA) AT THE HABITAT III CONFERENCE HELD IN QUITO, ECUADO FROM 17TH-20TH OCTOBER, 2016

HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE

HIS EXCELLENCY, BAN KI- MOON SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

DR. JOAN CLOS, SECRETARY- GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

MAYOR OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF QUITO,

EXCELLENCIES,

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I WISH TO BEGIN BY CONGRATULATING YOU MR PRESIDENT, YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF ECUADOR ON THE SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF THIS CONFERENCE IN THE HISTORIC CITY OF QUITO.

THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION WISHES TO THANK THE CITY OF QUITO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY AND FOR SHARING THE SPACE AND EMBRACING THE PRESENCE AND SPIRIT OF ALL ATTENDING THE HABITAT III CONFERENCE.

ZAMBIA PAYS GRATITUDE TO CO-CHAIRS OF THE PREPARATORY PROCESS AND ALL THE DELEGATIONS WHO WORKED TIRELESSLY TO ENSURE A SHARED AND COMMON AGREEMENT ON THE DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA. WE ALSO WANT TO THANK UNHABITAT, CIVIL SOCIETY AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS FOR JOINING HANDS TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL OF ENSURING A NEW URBAN AGENDA WHICH LEAVES NO ONE BEHIND.

LIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, ZAMBIA HAS BEEN GREATLY AFFECTED BY RAPID URBANIZATION, WHICH IS ESTIMATES OF 40% OF THE NATIONAL POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN AREAS, WITH A PROJECTED INCREASE TO 60% BY 2050, REPRESENTING A FIVE TIMES GROWTH IN ABSOLUTE NUMBERS, HENCE POSING MORE CHALLENGES IN TERMS OF PROPER PLANNING, HOUSING PROVISION,

UNPLANNED SETTLEMENTS, UNEMPLOYMENT AND PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES SUCH AS WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MOBILITY AMONG MANY OTHER ISSUES, IF THE STATUS QUO CONTINUES.

IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, ZAMBIA HAS SEEN UNPRECEDENTED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS, AS WELL AS CREATION OF NEW DISTRICTS UNDER THE DECENTRALISED FRAMEWORK.

WITH ALL THIS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPEMENT GOING ON, ZAMBIA STILL HAS A HOUSING DEFICIT AVERAGING 1.5 MILLION. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA REMAINS RESOLVED TO ADDRESSING THE HOUSING DEFICIT AND IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY OF 1996, AND THE HOUSING IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY TO RESPOND TO THIS CHALLENGE, AND TO MAKE IT MORE ALIGNED TO THE GLOBAL DEMANDS OF GREENER AND SMARTER HOUSING.

FURTHER MORE, ZAMBIA HAS UNDERTAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES TO RESPOND TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES:

- REVIEW OF SPATIAL PLANNING LEGISLATION WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE REPEAL OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT OF 1963 AND THE HOUSING (STATUTORY AND IMPROVEMENT) AREAS ACT OF 1974, THROUGH THE ENACTMENT OF THE URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING ACT NO 3 OF 2015
- COMMENCEMENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL URBANIZATION POLICY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UN HABITAT TO ADDRESS URBANIZATION CHALLENGES.
- DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY WIDE SLUM UPGRADING STRATEGY MEANT TO ADDRESS AND CONTROL THE UNPLANNED URBAN SETTLEMENTS.
- REVIEW OF THE WATER AND SANITATION POLICY TO IMPROVE THE PROVISION OF WATER AND SANITATION TO THE CITIZENS. TO THIS EFFECT, ZAMBIA HAS PARTNERED WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT.
- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECENTRALIZATION POLICY AND IT'S IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO ATTAIN BALANCED DEVELOPMENT IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

EXCELLENCIES,

IN LINE WITH THE GOALS AND TARGETS AS WELL AS THE SPIRIT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS WORKING TIRELESSLY TO ADDRESS AND REDUCE THE INEQUALITY GAP BETWEEN CITIES AND BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS. GOVERNMENT HAS IN THIS CASE ESTABLISHED AN INTERFISCAL GOVERNMENTAL ARCHITECTURE TO IMPLEMENT FISCAL DECENTRALISATION, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT EQUALISATION FUND, WHICH AMONG OTHER MEASURES WILL ENHANCE EQUITABLE RESOURCE ALLOCATION IN ALL DISTRICTS.

THE NEED TO MOVE TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE URBAN PROSPERITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL IS OF PROFOUND IMPORTANCE. IN THIS REGARD, EQUITABLE AND AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE BASIC PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES FOR ALL, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF THE VULNERABLE INCLUDING WOMEN, CHILD AND YOUTH, IS UNEQUIVOVAL. THE GOVERNMENT IS THEREFORE PURSUING PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS BOTH IN COUNTRY AND INTERNATIONALLY TO FINANCE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

EXCELLENCIES,

AS WE MOVE IN THE NEW URBAN AGENDA, THERE IS NEED TO ADOPT APPROACHES THAT NOT ONLY ENVISAGE A BETTER FUTURE, BUT ALSO FOCUS ON ENSURING ADEQUATE SPATIAL LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS, HOUSING FINANCE, DECENT HOUSING, ACCESS TO PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES AND INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HUMAN SETTLEMENT SECTOR.

IN ORDER TO ATTAIN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS FOR THE 2030 AGENDA AND SUSTAINABLE HOUSING, FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE SUSTAINABLE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ARE CRITICAL. THESE INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS:

- ACCESS TO LAND, SECURITY OF LAND TENURE AND UPGRADING OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

- ESTABLISHMENT OF URBAN AND TERRITORIAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE FUNDS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, SUPPORTED BY GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO ASSIST COUNTRIES FACING SPECIFIC CHALLENGES SUCH AS LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.
- STRENGTHED MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDING ENHANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF COUNTRIES. HUMAN RESOURCES.
- STRENGTHENED GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH ALL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS; COOPERATION AGENCIES;

IN CONCLUSION, ZAMBIA WISHES TO THANK OUR MANY COOPERATING PARTNERS WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK WITH US TO IMPROVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

ZAMBIA LOOKS FORWARD, WITH RENEWED IMPETUS TO IMPELMENT A NEW GLOBAL COMMITMENT FOR THE NEXT TWO DECADES THAT WILL BE MONITORED THROUGH THE NATIONAL, SUB REGIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL STRUCTURES.

I THANK YOU ALL