



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

Key Note Statement by His Excellency, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group

High-level Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Finance under the theme “A multi-stakeholders’ approach to mobilization and delivery of adaptation finance”

16 November 2016 | Marrakech, Morocco

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the 48 members of Least Developed Countries Group.
2. First of all, let me express our greatest appreciation to the Kingdom and people of Morocco for your tremendous hospitality and excellent arrangements for the conference.

Mr President,

3. The Least Developed Countries comprise the 48 most vulnerable countries to climate change. The Convention and the Paris Agreement explicitly recognise the specific needs and special situation of the LDCs and call for Parties to take this fully into account in supporting LDCs with funding and technology.
4. For the millions of poor and vulnerable people our countries represent, climate change threatens their very lives and livelihoods. Therefore adaptation to the impacts of climate change is a priority for our countries and must be a key component of the long-term global response to climate change. Through adaptation efforts, the Least Developed Countries will be able to restore the degraded ecosystems and increase our adaptive capacities, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change.
5. Support to meet the full cost of adaptation in our countries is crucial and developed country Parties are required under the Convention to provide financial resources in meeting those costs.
6. Least Developed Countries, such as Zambia, are being left with far too little support and our adaptation needs continues to be neglected rather than prioritised.
7. As part of our efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change, the Least Developed Countries have embarked on National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The NAPs are intended to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies to address those needs. However, access to financial resources for the formulation and implementation of NAPs has been a challenge due to lack of resources and capacity.

8. We also face challenges in accrediting national entities for direct access to funding and this has created delays in accessing funds for readiness and preparatory support that is already available from the Green Climate Fund.

Mr. President,

9. To date Parties have failed to agree on a quantified goal for adaptation finance or to mobilise sufficient resources to scale up adaptation finance to the level needed.

10. We note the finance roadmap presented by some developed country Parties for mobilising 100 billion USD by the year 2020. While we acknowledge the usefulness of such a roadmap, indicating that the 100 billion USD goal will be reached, we also note it reveals there will be a large gap in adaptation finance in the future. Predictions in the roadmap also indicate that only 20% of the 100 billion USD will be allocated to adaptation. This is far from the 50-50 balance developing countries have been calling for.

11. The percentage of grants-based support for adaptation also remains low, putting an additional strain on LDCs. The difficulty for LDCs to attract private sector investment to support adaptation actions compounds the challenges.

12. We are grateful for Belgium's recent pledge to the Least Developed Countries Fund of 24 million Euros for the period of 2016–2018 and other countries who have pledged funds to the LDCF previously. We are however extremely concerned that an additional 35 projects, worth 231.4 million USD, that are technically cleared and waiting for support from the LDCF have yet to be funded. We look forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and other funds under the Financial Mechanism for the full implementation of our adaptation priorities.

13. The Group looks forward to receiving new, predictable, scaled up and sustainable resources for adaptation action. Enhanced resilience to climate impacts will allow our countries to transition to low-greenhouse gas economies sooner which in turn will reduce the need for adaptation finance in the future.

Mr. President,

I thank you.