

- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. BORIS JOHNSON, PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY MS. PATRICIA ESPINOZA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE;**
- **DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

I WISH TO BEGIN BY THANKING YOU AND CONGRATULATING, YOUR EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON, FOR CONVENING AND CHAIRING THIS IMPORTANT SUMMIT AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 26TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE;

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE UK PRESIDENCY OF COP-26, UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP WILL DELIVER THE OUTCOME THAT THE WORLD URGENTLY NEEDS FOR AVERTING A CLIMATE CRISIS!

CHAIRPERSON,

SCIENCE IS CLEAR THAT WE ONLY HAVE A SMALL WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE THAT WE COLLECTIVELY TAKE DECISIVE ACTION AND PREVENT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

FOR DEVELOPING AND VULNERABLE COUNTRIES LIKE ZAMBIA, WHICH IS AMONG THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITH MULTIPLE CHALLENGES, CLIMATE CHANGE BRINGS AN ADDITIONAL LAYER OF CHALLENGES AND AGGRAVATES EXISTING ONES;

CLIMATE CHANGE MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS A NUMBER OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN ORDER TO LIFT OUR PEOPLE FROM HIGH POVERTY LEVELS SO AS TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVELIHOODS.

CHAIRPERSON,

FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY, A POSITIVE OUTCOME FROM THIS CONFERENCE IS NOT AN OPTION BUT AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY WILL SHARE OUR SENSE OF URGENCY.

IF THERE IS ANY LESSON WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, IT IS THE NEED FOR OUR COLLABORATION ON THIS SHARED PLANET IN ORDER TO SECURE OUR MUTUAL SAFETY AND SUCCESS.

WE ARE HOPEFUL AND CONFIDENT THAT IF THE DESIRED OUTCOME FROM THIS SUMMIT AND INDEED COP-26 IS ACHIEVED, WE SHOULD MOVE TO AGREE THE FOLLOWING:

- (i) CLEAR, DEEP AND REAL CUTS IN GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY ALL COUNTRIES WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TAKING THE LEAD;**
- (ii) ADEQUATE AND PREDICTABLE FINANCING TO ENABLE US THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO MAKE IMPACTFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADDRESS THIS CRITICAL GLOBAL CHALLENGE;**

- (iii) SUPPORT WITH TECHNOLOGIES AND THE CAPACITIES THAT THE WORLD NEEDS TO SHIFT FROM CARBON INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PATHS TO LOW CARBON GREEN ECONOMIES;**
- (iv) PLACING A PREMIUM ON ADAPTATION MEASURES AND THE SUPPORT REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT WE SAFEGUARD THE LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE ON OUR PLANET AND TO PROTECT NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS;**
- (v) RESOLVING THE REMAINING TECHNICAL BOTTLENECKS THAT ARE DELAYING US FROM UNLEASHING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.**

CHAIRPERSON,

ZAMBIA IS WILLING AND READY TO SUPPORT YOUR LEADERSHIP AND WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY IN RESOLVING THIS CHALLENGE.

IN THIS REGARD, I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT PRIOR TO THIS SUMMIT IN JULY 2021, ZAMBIA SUBMITTED A REVISED AND UPDATED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT, SPELLING OUT THE FOLLOWING AMBITIOUS EFFORTS:

- (a) WE HAVE PLEDGED TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 25% BASED ON THE 2010 LEVELS BY 2030 USING A COMBINATION OF OUR OWN DOMESTIC RESOURCES AND OTHER SUPPORT THAT WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY RECEIVED;**

- (b) WE ARE WILLING AND READY TO GO FURTHER TO REDUCE OUR EMISSIONS BY 47% IF WE ARE ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED BY OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS;**
- (c) WE HAVE INCREASED THE SECTORS UNDER MITIGATION FROM THE INITIAL THREE TO SIX IN THE REVISED NDC, AS WE STEADILY MOVE TOWARDS AN ECONOMY WIDE MITIGATION APPROACH;**
- (d) GIVEN THAT ADAPTATION IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF OUR NDC, WE HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED INDICATORS TO ENABLE US TRACK PROGRESS ON HOW WE ARE BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE NATURAL AND HUMAN SYSTEMS;**
- (e) WE WILL EXPEDITE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF BANKABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS TO ENABLE US ACCESS THE NECESSARY FINANCING;**
- (f) LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST, IN JUST TWO MONTHS OF OUR BEING ELECTED INTO OFFICE BY THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE, WE HAVE CREATED A MINISTRY OF GREEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT, WHICH WILL SPEARHEAD THE WORK ON ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER RELATED CHALLENGES IN A ROBUST MANNER.**

CHAIRPERSON,

AS I CONCLUDE, I WISH TO EMPHASISE THE NEED FOR US ALL TO FOSTER A SENSE OF URGENCY AS WE WORK TO GIVE POLITICAL MOMENTUM TO OUR NEGOTIATORS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THE NEXT TWO WEEKS TO GIVE THE WORLD THE OUTCOME IT NEEDS FROM THIS CONFERENCE.

WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION AND NOBLE TASK TO DELIVER FOR OUR CITIZENS, THE MUCH NEEDED AND DESIRED CHANGES TO PRESERVE THIS PLANET AND SAFEGUARD OUR ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

CHAIRPERSON,

THIS IS OUR DUTY.

**THIS IS OUR INDIVIDUAL, COLLECTIVE AND INDEED,
INESCAPABLE RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR WORLD, TO OUR PLANET.**

I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION.