



**Republic of Zambia**

**ZAMBIA'S STATEMENT TO THE TWENTY THIRD SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP-23) TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK  
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC), DELIVERED BY HON. JEAN  
KAPATA, MP, MINISTER OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**BONN, GERMANY**

**NOVEMBER 2017**

- Your Excellency Mr. Voreqe Bainimarama, The Prime Minister of Fiji and also the COP 23 President,
- Your Excellency, the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Gutierrez,
- The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ms Patricia Espinosa,
- Fellow Ministers present,
- Heads of Delegations;
- Distinguished delegates.

On behalf of the Zambian Government, allow me to join the other speakers before me to congratulate you, Your Excellency, and through you the people of Fiji for convening this important Conference under the climate Change Convention. This is indeed unprecedented and historical as Fiji is among the most vulnerable countries and fully understand the challenges that we face.

I wish to assure you of my country's total support in ensuring that this Conference succeeds in delivering tangible outcomes that would enhance the implementation of the Convention and strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change.

## **Your Excellency,**

My Government is deeply concerned that climate change poses a serious threat to our survival and has potential to reverse the developmental gains that the country has achieved so far. There is a growing risk of adverse climate change and catastrophic impact, particularly in Agriculture, Water and Sanitation, Energy, infrastructure and Health sectors. For instance, the recent variability and unpredictable nature of the climate has also undermined critical sectors of the economy such as agriculture, which has resulted in reduced agricultural productivity and perennial food shortages.

In the energy sector, the decreased rainfall experienced in the past few years has resulted in reduced water levels in our major water bodies. This has led to the power deficit and subsequent load shedding through rationing power usage as the country depends largely on hydropower. Consequently, there has been a resultant loss of productivity in critical sectors of the economy such as Mining, Manufacturing and Agriculture.

**Your Excellency,**

My Government has taken the challenge of climate change seriously and we have put in place a National Policy on Climate Change of 2016. The Policy provides a framework for a coordinated response in addressing this challenge. In addition, Climate Change has been mainstreamed in our five-year national development Plan that runs from 2017 to 2021.

We therefore call for the recognition of the Country's efforts in addressing climate change through the provision of support for the implementation of both our Nationally Determined Contribution and adaptation priorities;

**Your Excellency,**

Let me now share the expectations of my Government from this important Conference:

- We expect Parties to continue building on the momentum gathered in Marrakech last year in defining the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement; in this regard, it is our view that we quickly move to text based negotiation to ensure a smooth completion and adoption of these modalities, procedures and guidelines by COP 24;
- Zambia looks forward to the Facilitative Dialogue that will take stock of our collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress made towards achieving the long term global goal on Climate change;
- My Government calls on this Conference to focus on finalising discussion on the sources and inputs for a Dialogue taking into account both pre 2020 and post 2020 obligations;
- It is also important to my Government to be clear on what will constitute the outcome of the facilitative dialogue and how this will be taken forward;

- Scaled up provision of financial support to developing countries such as Zambia to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other obligations under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

### **Finally, Your Excellency,**

As I conclude, our expectation is that the outcome at this important Conference will provide political re-assurance and catalyse global action to minimize the adverse climate change impacts. I wish to assure you of Zambia's commitment in supporting your presidency during your tenure.

I thank you.