



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

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**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK**

**ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE ROBERT K.K. SICHINGA, MP**

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK**

**AT**

**THE 38<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF FAO CONFERENCE, HELD UNDER THE THEME  
“SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION”**

**AT**

**THE FAO HEADQUARTERS,  
15-22 JUNE 2013, ROME, ITALY**

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**THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONFERENCE (H.E. MOHAMMED ASIF RAHIMI),**

**FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL (MR. JOSE GRAZIANO DA SILVA),**

**HEADS OF DELEGATIONS,**

**DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO DELIVER A MESSAGE OF WARM GREETINGS FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT MR. MICHAEL CHILUFYA SATA ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA.

FROM THE ON SET, ALLOW ME TO THANK THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION FOR SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZING THE 38<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE. I WISH TO CONGRATULATE YOU CHAIRPERSON ON YOUR ELECTION TO CHAIR THIS VERY IMPORTANT CONFERENCE. ALLOW ME ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA TO ALSO EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAO FOR THE REFORMS HE IS UNDERTAKING IN THE ORGANIZATION TO STEER THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ENDING HUNGER IN THE WORLD. ZAMBIA IS CONFIDENT OF HIS ABLE LEADERSHIP IN THIS REGARD.

**CHAIRPERSON**

IN THE LAST DECADE , THE WORLD HAS BEEN FOCUSING ATTENTION ON PROBLEMS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND THE FINANCIAL CRISES, ALL OF WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO RISING FOOD PRICES AND

THE CONTINUALLY RISING OIL PRICES WHICH HAVE BECOME THE SOURCE OF INCREASED COST OF LIVING FOR ALL. THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS HAVE EXPOSED THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. NOW THE WHOLE WORLD IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SUSTAINABILITY OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, THE THEME **“SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION,”** IS QUITE APT.

IT IS THEREFORE OUR SUBMISSION THAT PRODUCTION STRATEGIES SHOULD BE IN LINE WITH CONSUMPTION PATTERNS, IN ORDER TO BALANCE THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE OVER-CONSUMING IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THOSE UNDER-CONSUMING IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

**CHAIRPERSON,**

ALTHOUGH OVER THE LAST DECADE, MANY COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, HAVE RECORDED POSITIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH RATES, IN FACT DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS, SEVERAL AFRICAN ECONOMIES GREW AT OVER 5 PERCENT PER YEAR. FOR EXAMPLE, LAST YEAR, ZAMBIA RECORDED GROWTH RATES IN EXCESS OF 6 PERCENT AND PROJECTIONS FOR THIS YEAR ARE THAT OUR ECONOMY IS LIKELY TO RECORD EVEN MORE POSITIVE GROWTH, YET THIS DOES NOT TELL THE FULL STORY ABOUT WHAT IS TAKING PLACE AT MICRO LEVEL.

INSPIRE OF THESE IMPRESSIVE STATISTICS ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, THESE HAVE NOT BEEN COMMENSURATE WITH FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS, NOR WITH POVERTY REDUCTION AND JOB CREATION. FORTY FIVE PERCENT (45%) OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 ARE MALNOURISHED AND THEIR GROWTH STUNTED.

DESPITE ZAMBIA HAVING AMPLE ARABLE LAND, WITH ONLY 14 PERCENT UNDER ANY FORM OF AGRICULTURAL CULTIVATION, AND WITH 40 PERCENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; AND A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, YET AGRICULTURE HAS NOT BEEN FULLY EXPLOITED. HENCE OUR GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AGRICULTURE ONE OF THE TOP FOUR PRIORITY SECTORS FOR INVESTMENT, IN ORDER TO REALIZE THE UNEXPLOITED TAPPED POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION. AS WE STRIVE TO REALIZE THE FULL POTENTIAL, WE ARE DETERMINED TO DO THIS IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE MANNER.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

OVER THE PAST FEW SEASONS, ZAMBIA HAS RECORDED AN INCREASE IN GRAIN PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS. AS I ADDRESS THIS GATHERING, I HAVE JUST COME FROM A SADC CONFERENCE IN MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE, DURING WHICH WE SHARED INFORMATION ON HOW YET AGAIN, SADC WILL NOT PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD FOR THE REGION. ZAMBIA IS AMONG ONLY TWO COUNTRIES IN THE REGION LIKELY TO HAVE SOME MAIZE SURPLUS. ZAMBIA IS MAKING AVAILABLE MAIZE GRAIN AND SOME OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS TO OUR NEIGHBOURS IN THE REGION AS WELL AS THROUGH **THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)**. ZAMBIA STANDS READY TO SHARE THE LITTLE EXTRA STOCK THAT IS AVAILABLE. HIS EXCELLENCY OUR PRESIDENT HAS DECLARED THAT **["NO ONE SHALL DIE FROM FOOD STARVATION IN THE REGION, AS LONG AS ZAMBIA HAS SOME FOOD STOCKS".]**

DESPITE OUR COUNTRY'S IMPRESSIVE GROWTH IN PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS, IT STILL FACES A NUMBER OF FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES IN THE

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. KEY AMONG THEM ARE; LOW INVESTMENT, LOW PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY, ESPECIALLY AMONG SMALL-HOLDER FARMERS. FURTHER, WE ARE GRAPPLING WITH THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE WHICH MANIFEST ITSELF THROUGH DROUGHT, FLOODING, IRREGULAR RAINY SEASON AND PEST ATTACKS JUST TO MENTION A FEW YET WE HAVE 3.1 MILLION CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS NEEDING SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME.

**CHAIRPERSON,**

GIVEN THE PROJECTED INCREASE IN POPULATION GROWTH, THE CONSEQUENTIAL DEMAND FOR FOOD IS EXPECTED TO EXERT INCREASED PRESURE ON THE AVAILABLE NATURAL RESOURCES. WITH RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER, ZAMBIA COULD EASILY OFFER MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS MEETING THE EXPECTED INCREASED DEMAND FOR THE DOMESTIC AND REGIONAL MARKETS.

**CHAIRPERSON,**

IN ORDER TO BUILD A FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURE FUTURE FOR ITS CITIZENRY AND OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, OUR GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGIES AND INTERVENTIONS IN THE SECTOR WILL INCLUDE: COMMERCIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND THROUGH FARM BLOCK DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION OF REAFFORESTATION AND AGROFORESTRY, CROP DIVERSIFICATION, STRENGTHENING RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SERVICES, INVESTING IN SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT; AND REHABILITATION OF LIVESTOCK INFRASTRUCTURE, CONTROL OF LIVESTOCK DISEASES AND THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES.

OUR GOVERNMENT IS VIGOROUSLY PURSUING THE PROMOTION OF AGRO-PROCESSING, VALUE ADDITION, IMPROVED YIELDS THROUGH THE

USE OF HIGH YIELDING AND DROUGHT TOLERANT SEED VARIETIES; AND PROVEN GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES SUCH AS CONSERVATION FARMING, ORGANIC FARMING, CROP ROTATION, WATER CONSERVATION AND SIMILAR OTHER PRACTICES. FURTHER, OUR GOVERNMENT IS SYSTEMATICALLY REFORMING THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SYSTEM. BESIDES THE AFOREGOING, OUR GOVERNMENT IS PROMOTING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION THROUGH REJUVINATED COOPERATIVES AND FARMER ORGANIZATIONS.

**CHAIRPERSON,**

I AM AWARE THAT GOOD NUTRITION UNDERPINS HEALTHY LIVES AND ALSO LEADS TO ENHANCED EDUCATION AND HEALTH OUTCOMES THAT CONSEQUENTLY CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY AND OVERALL NATIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED A MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH TO PROMOTING GOOD NUTRITION. FOR INSTANCE, UNDER HEALTH, THE FOCUS IS ON ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO AND COVERAGE OF HIGH IMPACT COMMUNITY-BASED NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS. IN AGRICULTURE, THE FOCUS IS ON ADVOCATING FOR THE PROMOTION OF NUTRITIOUS DIET THROUGH CROP DIVERSIFICATION, ADEQUATE FOOD PROCESSING, STORAGE AND UTILIZATION. UNDER EDUCATION, THE SECTOR IS SUPPORTING SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED SCHOOL FEEDING AND NUTRITION SERVICES.

IT NEEDS TO BE UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL THESE PROGRAMMES REQUIRE INCREASED INVESTMENT BY OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE EXPECT OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS TO BE MORE SUPPORTIVE.

**CHAIRPERSON,**

THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY LAUNCHED THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PLAN (NAIP) WHICH WAS DEVELOPED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF **THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CAADP)** FRAMEWORK. THIS PLAN SEEKS INCREASED INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT ESPECIALLY FOR OUR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS. LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE FAO AND OTHER COOPERATING PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY **USAID, DFID** AND **THE EUROPEAN UNION** JUST TO MENTION A FEW, FOR THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED DURING THE CAADP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. TOGETHER, WE NOW NEED TO PRACTICALLY IMPLEMENT THE PLAN.

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA, I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATE THE WORK OF THE FAO IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT IN FORESTRY MAPPING AND ASSESSEMENT, FACILITATING LAND REFORMS, CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DISEASE CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE.

AMONG THE DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION ARE ENERGY NEEDS, AGRICULTURE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, POPULATION INCREASE AND RURAL URBAN MIGRATION. THE COMBINATION OF THESE CAUSE SIGNIFICANT DEFORESTATION RATES WHICH IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE NEED FOR WATER HARVESTING TO ENABLE IRRIGATION IN THE DROUGHT PRONE AREAS, AND POWER GENERATIONS, ALL REQUIRE MASSIVE INVESTMENT INTO INFRASTRUCTURE. SUB-SAHARA AFRICA AND PARTICULARLY THE TROPICS, OFFER THE LARGEST AREA FOR ARABLE LAND FOR AGRICULTURE. IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD TO

INVEST IN CAPITAL EQUIPMENT IN THOSE AREAS. AFRICA OFFERS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURE.

ZAMBIA LOOKS TO THE FAO AND THIS CONFERENCE, TO CONTINUE PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO REGIONS SUCH AS **THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)** AND **THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA)** TO MEET THE REGIONAL SPECIFIC CHALLENGES IN FEEDING ITSELF.

ALLOW ME TO CLOSE BY STATING THAT FAO AS AN INSTITUTION SHOULD BE COMMENDED AND SUPPORTED IN THE PROCESS OF REFORM TO REPOSITION ITSELF TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS GLOBAL AGRICULTURE CHALLENGES AND TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN ASSISTING ITS MEMBERS IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS. IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT THIS CONFERENCE WILL LIVE UP TO THIS EXPECTATION AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR THIS PROCESS.

ZAMBIA ON BEHALF OF ITSELF AND OUR NEIGHBOUR ZIMBABWE INVITE YOU TO THE UNWTO TO BE HELD IN LIVINGSTONE/VICTORIA TOWN ON THE SHARED BORDER, FROM AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup> 2013.

**I THANK YOU ALL FOR LISTENING TO OUR MESSAGE.**