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General Debate

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and Vienna

Tuesday, 19 July 2016

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Encyla C. T. Sinjela

*Not checked against delivery**

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STATEMENT DELIVERED BY ZAMBIA

AT THE

THE FOURTEENTH UNCTAD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

NAIROBI, KENYA

Chair,

The Zambian Delegation wishes to congratulate you, together with all the members of your bureau, on your appointment to preside over this Fourteenth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Zambia has full confidence in your leadership and ability to steer the deliberations of this Ministerial Conference towards positive outcomes.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kenya and indeed the people of this great country for the warm hospitality accorded to my delegation since our arrival here in Nairobi.

Chair,

Zambia aligns herself with the statements delivered by Tanzania on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Bangladesh on behalf of the LDC Group and Namibia on behalf of the African Group, and wishes to make the following remarks in her national capacity.

My delegation wishes to sincerely thank the UNCTAD Secretary General, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, for his opening address in which he highlighted the key activities of UNCTAD and the Organisation's strategic focus following landmark agreements and outcomes reached in 2015 which included, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable

Development and the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) on climate change in Paris.

We appreciate the enthusiasm of the Secretary General and his team in advancing the important work of this Organisation in light of the heightened commitments and expectations arising from these landmark agreements.

Chair,

These landmark agreements and outcomes have certainly brought to the fore, the urgent need for the international community to re-think and re-engineer its engagement in the coming years.

In that context, we are pleased with the action oriented approach taken by this Organisation, as reflected in the theme of this Conference, which reads “**From Decisions to Action: Moving Towards Inclusive and Equitable Global Economic Environment for Trade and Development**”. It is our expectation that through this action oriented approach and whilst building on from the Doha Mandate, we will ensure that the areas identified for action are those where we expect to achieve positive impacts and high returns particularly in the economies of least developed countries.

Chair,

We believe this Ministerial Conference provides us with an ideal platform to set the pace for others in defining clear mandates and practical

approaches that will ensure that we deliver beneficial and inclusive development outcomes for all in a more concrete and sustainable manner.

We believe UNCTAD is very well placed to make significant contributions to the successful implementation of the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda particularly given the critical role of international trade as a means to achieving these Sustainable Development Goals.

As such, we are very expectant that this Conference will deliver an outcome document that will offer practical and realistic approaches, which will assist least developed countries such as Zambia, to achieve sustained economic development. This will enable such countries to make meaningful contributions to the welfare of their people, the region and the global economy as a whole. Despite the challenges that individual economies face, it is our firm belief that collectively our economies can and are able to significantly contribute to the growth of the global economy.

Having said that **Chair**, it is our sincere hope that over the course of the next few days, we will be able to address all the major outstanding issues in the draft outcome document and in turn, reaffirm the central role of UNCTAD, as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment on trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

Chair,

Zambia like many other developing countries in the world is faced with challenges of uplifting the standard of living of her people. Our economy experiences a number of challenges which include, among others, infrastructure deficit in major economic sectors, volatility in global commodity prices and instability in global currencies, and heavy dependence on raw materials and low value products for exports.

To address some of these highlighted challenges, Government has continued to place greater emphasis, in its national development plans, on accelerated industrialization, infrastructure development and inclusive pro-poor growth particularly for rural areas. For example, the Revised Sixth National Development Plan's strategic focus is on capital investments with an emphasis on promoting economic diversification and industrialization. Some of the projects Government has embarked on include:

1. In Energy – new power generation projects, both renewable and non-renewable, to increase electricity supply;
2. In Transport – construction of road infrastructure under the link Zambia 8000 and the pave Zambia 2000 projects;
3. In Health – Construction of district hospitals and over 650 health posts across the country;
4. In Education – Construction of Universities, Secondary and Primary Schools in provinces;
5. In Agriculture – increased hectarage of irrigation and livestock projects; and
6. In Manufacturing – establishment of Industrial zones and product value chain clusters.

Chair,

Zambia recognizes the important role UNCTAD is playing in trying to enhance the competitiveness of LDCs through various collaborative efforts with other multilateral donor agencies. To this end, Zambia appreciates these efforts and her long standing partnership with UNCTAD which over the years has made significant contributions towards Zambia's development efforts.

We will, therefore, continue to work with and draw on the immense expertise of UNCTAD as well as other cooperating partners for assistance and guidance in the implementation of our on-going and future programmes as we seek to enhance Zambia's trade and economic development.

To that effect, allow me to conclude by joining others in calling upon the UN System and cooperating partners to adequately finance UNCTAD so that it continues to effectively implement its mandate, along the three pillars, to help developing countries use trade as a means of achieving sustained growth and socio economic development.

I thank You Chair!