



Borrowers' Platform

12 October 2026

Governing Council

Statement by:
The Republic of Zambia
on behalf of African Members of The Borrowers'
Platform

Delivered by
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Republic of Zambia

Excellencies,

Distinguished ministers and governors,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to thank you for the confidence placed in Zambia to speak on behalf of African members of the borrowers' platform.

We commend Egypt for its leadership as interim chair, the steering committee for establishing the foundations of the platform, and UNCTAD for providing secretariat support. We also thank the Kingdom of Thailand for hosting this important meeting.

Excellencies,

The borrowers' platform is an important step towards giving borrowing countries a stronger voice in decisions about international debt.

Many African countries face high debt costs, limited access to affordable loans and lengthy debt restructuring processes. These challenges leave governments with fewer resources to invest in hospitals, schools, roads, water supply and job creation.

Decisions about debt therefore matter not only to governments, but also to the everyday lives of our people.

The platform gives borrowing countries an opportunity to learn from one another, share practical solutions and speak with a stronger collective voice on issues affecting their debt and development. Our countries must have a meaningful role in shaping the rules and decisions that affect their economic future.

As the platform begins its work, we must move from establishing structures to delivering practical results. This means implementing the agreed work programme, sharing expertise and regularly reviewing progress to ensure that members benefit from their participation.

We must also encourage more eligible countries, particularly those in Africa that have not yet joined, to become members. Broader participation will bring more experience to the table and strengthen our ability to address common challenges.

The success of the platform will ultimately depend on the commitment of its members to participate actively, cooperate openly and turn shared knowledge into practical action.

Excellencies,

The vision of a stronger collective voice for borrowing countries is also reflected in the sevilla commitment, which zambia was honoured to co-facilitate.

We must build on this commitment to promote an international debt system that listens to borrowing countries, recognises their development needs and supports their efforts to improve the lives of their citizens.

On behalf of zambia and african members, i reaffirm our commitment to the success of the borrowers' platform. We stand ready to share our experiences, support fellow members and work with all participating countries and unctad to advance its objectives.

Together, we can ensure that borrowing countries have a stronger voice in decisions about their debt and a greater opportunity to achieve sustainable development.

I thank you.