

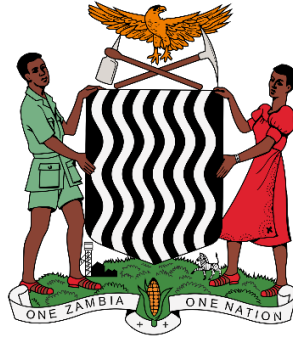
**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-third session (virtual meeting)
Geneva, 10-12 June 2020**

**High-level segment on “Harnessing science, technology, and innovation to
accelerate progress on the SDGs and addressing COVID-19”**

Statement submitted by

H.E. Ms. Kayula Siame
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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NATIONAL STATEMENT BY

MRS. KAYULA SIAME
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**On the 23rd Annual Session of the Commission for Science and
Technology for Development (CSTD) of the United Nations
Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

to be held through Virtual Meeting from 10th to 12th June, 2020

LUSAKA

The Chairperson,

Allow me to deliver the statement on this subject matter on behalf of the Government Republic of Zambia (GRZ). From the onset I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) body mandated with this noble responsibility of promoting the development and application of science, technology and innovation to respond to the needs of countries, including my country, Zambia

Chairperson,

I wish to inform this august house that the Government of the Republic of Zambia recognised the contribution and pivotal role that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) plays in promoting Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to economic and social development of the countries.

My Ministry is indebted to the financial and technical support from CSTD, that started in 2019, for the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Review (STIP Review) of Zambia and development of the Science, Technology and Innovation Master Plan for Zambia.

Chairperson,

In October 2019, UNCTAD sent a Team of Experts to Zambia for an Inception Stakeholders Consultative Meetings.

And during the period February/March 2020, another Team of Experts come to Zambia from UNCTAD to undertake a broader stakeholders' consultations towards STIP Review for Zambia. The Team of UNCTAD Experts and collaboration with my Ministry consulted stakeholders who include line Government Ministries, the business community, training and education organizations, academic and research institutions.

If it was not for the COVID-19 pandemic, the team of Experts from UNCTAD would have been in Zambia for Capacity Building Workshop and Stakeholder consultation on first (1st) draft of STIP Review for Zambia in August, 2020.

Zambia thanks for its commitment to UNCTAD to complete the STIP Review for Zambia. The STIP Review will help the country sharpen its tools in addressing scientific and technological challenges across all socio-economic sectors for socio-economic development of Zambia.

Chairperson,

My Ministry has a broader mandate of developing, executing, monitoring and evaluating policies on STI, Higher Education and Skills development.

Zambia, in promoting STI as a key driver to national development has linked to sectors such as Health, Agriculture, Energy, Mining, Manufacturing, Industrialization, Tourism, Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

In this regard, My Ministry has developed and reviewed the following national policies to answer to the current national and global challenges and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR):

1. National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy,
2. National Nuclear Policy,
3. National Higher Education Policy, and
4. National Policy on Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training

Chairperson,

On the topic challenge of **COVID-19** that has affected our nation since December, 2019, Zambia has put in place a National COVID - 19 Research and Innovation Plan, which is being spearheaded by our sister Ministry, the Ministry of Health. The National COVID-19 Research and Innovation Plan was developed through a Multi-sectorial and Multi-disciplinary process involving all stakeholders.

In this regard, all stakeholders, including the Ministry of Higher Education, are contributing to the objectives of the National COVID-19 Research and Innovation Plan.

Therefore, my Ministry has undertaken the following intervention in contributing to mitigation of COVID-19 nationally and globally:

- The Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Brain C. Mushimba, MP. Established a Team of Eminent Scientists who

developed a Science and Technology Strategy on mitigation of COVID-19 in Zambia, so as to contribute to the Global body of knowledge on COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Ministry issued a COVID-19 Emergency Call aimed at financing for Project Proposals to address COVID-19 and contribute to the generation of critical knowledge and innovations, to help in prevention and containment of the outbreak of COVID-19 in Zambia
- My Ministry, through bilateral cooperation with other countries in the Southern African, will soon advertise a Call for Project Proposals on COVID-19 to support team of scientists from the region, so that they provide intentions that will address COVID-19 from the Southern Africa region point of view as opposed to only nationally, as COVID-19 pandemic knows no boarder.

Keep Safe and May God Bless You Us All.

I thank you.