

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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**Panel discussion on: The role of science, technology and innovation in
building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen
science**

Statement submitted by

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA'S HON. MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
PROF. NKANDU LUO, MP.**

**22ND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
DEVELOPMENT**

**The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation in Building Resilient
Communities, including through the contribution of Citizen Science**

**Geneva,
Switzerland**

May, 2019

CHAIRPERSON,

- **IT IS, WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I RECEIVE THIS HONOUR TO BE ACCORDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION AND SPEAK ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING THROUGH THE CONTRIBUTION OF CITIZEN SCIENCE AS IT SUPPORTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs).**
- **THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA (GRZ) RECOGNISES THE CONTRIBUTION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI) TO NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.**
- **THE GOVERNMENT FURTHER RECOGNISES THAT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MUST BE AT THE CENTRE OF ANALYSIS TO BE ABLE DRIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**
- **FURTHERMORE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION WILL GRATLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE un 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA.**
- **ZAMBIA BELIEVES THAT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION WILL CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO THE ATTAINMENT OF ZAMBIA'S VISION 2030 OF "BECOMING A PROSPEROUS MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRY BY THE YEAR 2030."**
- **IN THIS REGARD, THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN MY MINISTRY, THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, A BROADER MANDATE OF DEVELOPING, EXECUTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING POLICIES ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION.**

- FOR THE PERIOD 2017- 2021, ZAMBIA HAS ALIGNED ITS NATIONAL POLICIES TO THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (7NDP). THE 7NDP IS PRIMARILY ZAMBIA'S INVESTMENT PLAN WHICH CONTAINS QUANTIFIABLE PROGRAMMES TO INFORM SECTOR PLANNING AND BUDGETING PROCESSES.
- THE THEME FOR ZAMBIA'S 7NDP THEME IS "*ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TOWARDS THE VISION 2030 WITHOUT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND.*" THIS THEME HAS DEPARTED FROM SECTORAL-BASED PLANNING TO AN INTEGRATED (MULTISECTORAL) DEVELOPMENT APPROACH WHICH LINKS WELL WITH THE FOCUS OF THE SDGS.
- THE GOAL OF ZAMBIA'S 7NDP IS TO "CREATE A DIVERSIFIED AND RESILIENT ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINED GROWTH AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION DRIVEN, AMONG OTHERS, BY AGRICULTURE."
- FURTHERMORE, ZAMBIA'S SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN RESPONDS TO THE SMART ZAMBIA TRANSFORMATION AGENDA 2064 AND EMBEDS IN IT THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY NECESSARY FOR THE ACTUALIZATION OF A SMART ZAMBIA.
- WITH THE AFOREGOING YOU MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT THE NEED FOR NATIONS TO PRIORITIZE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES, CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED.
- ZAMBIA THEREFORE HAS LINKED SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AS KEY TO ITS DEVELOPMENT AGENDA TO THE FOLLOWING SECTORS:

HEALTH

AGRICULTURE

ENERGY

MINING

MANUFACTURING

INDUSTRIALIZATION

TOURISM

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

- **AS SUCH IN ORDER FOR ZAMBIA TO GET THE BENEFITS, ADD VALUE AND DEVELOP THE HIGHLIGHTED KEY SECTORS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION. IT HAS FOCUSED ON THE FOLLOWING:**
 - i) DEVELOPMENT OF A SCIENCE POLICY.**
 - ii) DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND SKILLS POLICY.**
 - iii) INTRODUCTION OF TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES THAT FOCUS ON SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS.**
 - iv) BUILDING A CRITICAL MASS OF QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS, TECHNICIANS AND ARTISANS BY INVESTMENT IN SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESEARCH IN STRATEGIC FIELDS.**
 - v) CURRICULUM REVIEW THAT FOCUSES ON, APPRENTICESHIP AND INDUSTRY ATTACHMENTS.**
 - vi) IMPROVED LINKAGES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR, INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA**
 - vii) IMPROVING THE INFRASTRUCTURE, EQUIPMENT AND LABORATORY FACILITIES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**
 - viii) WE HAVE TAKEN EXPOSURE TO SKILLS TRAINING INTO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**

- **IN CONCLUSION AS WAY FORWARD, ZAMBIA NEED TO UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES:**
- 1. BUILD A CRITICAL MASS OF QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS WITH PHD, MSC, AND BSC INCLUDING TECHNICIANS AND ARTISANS TO CONTRIBUTE GREATLY IN ENHANCING THE ROLE OF STI IN KEY SECTORS. THIS SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH PROVIDING MORE FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESEARCH IN STRATEGIC FIELDS.**
 - 2. CONTINUOUS CURRICULA REVIEW WITH EMPHASIS ON HANDS-ON ON EXPERIENCE, APPRENTICESHIPS AND INDUSTRY ATTACHMENTS**
 - 3. IMPROVE THE LINKAGE OF GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER KEY PLAYERS TO DEVELOP GOODS AND SERVICES THAT CAN BE COMMERCIALIZED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MARKET AS DEMANDED BY THE INDUSTRY.**
 - 4. MINIMIZE UNDERTAKING RESEARCH OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY AT A HUGE COST TO GOVERNMENT.**
 - 5. PRIORITISE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE. THIS WILL GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL FURTHERANCE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN THE COUNTRY.**

I THANK YOU.