



**Workshop on
Enhancing the
Development Potential of
Trade in Services for
the Least Developed Countries
through Preferential Treatment**

26 March 2018

Statement

Zambia

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the United Nations Office at Geneva**



UNCTAD SERVICES WAIVER-SESSION

- **Deputy Secretary General, Madame Durant**
- **Your Excellencies Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives Present,**
- **Distinguished Delegates**

Allow me at the outset to express my most profound gratitude to UNCTAD for convening this Session on the Services waiver and especially that Zambia is one of the countries in which this programme or pilot review was executed. Let me warmly acknowledge the remarks made by the Deputy Secretary General, and appreciate the role United Nations Conference on Trade and Development(UNCTAD) is executing in enhance policy decisions among member States with regards such activities as LDCs Services Waiver. In this connection, I want to appreciate the role UNCTAD is taking in assisting LDCs to identify, design and implement mechanisms that could facilitate LDCs' services exports. It is worth noting that a Waiver is one of the tools that may significant gains in exports markets.

Distinguished Delegates

It is worth noting that through WTO Ministerial decisions, importing countries were allowed to grant preferential treatment to services and services suppliers from least developed countries (LDCs). This was a positive move to ignite and stir the export industries in the LDCs. Let me mention that UNCTAD through its consultant travelled to Zambia and undertook this Pilot review of the Services export Interests and Waiver Preferences. In this connection, Zambia remains committed to address the challenges that maybe faced with the Implementation of this programme especially in many sectors such as Insurance, Construction and many others, limitations maybe noticed, but, the Government is committed to addressing the limitations.

Distinguished Delegates

I wish to urge UNCTAD to take a holistic approach with this programme by engaging with regional blocks in the specified regions. As you may be aware, Zambia is currently involved with about four regional blocks covering services (SADC, COMESA, Tripartite and CFTA). The LDC Waiver will be an added tool to this process in the context of regional integration.

Distinguished Delegates

My Government further wants to reiterate its commitment to working with UNCTAD in further addressing most of these challenges and develop a conducive environment to ensure successful implementation of the programme.

Call upon donors to support UNCTAD in spearheading this programme on the Services Waiver.

I Thank you.