



Agenda item: 7

General Debate

Statement by:

**Zambia**



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Republic of Zambia

**STATEMENT FOR USE**  
**BY**  
**THE PERMANENT SECRETARY (TRADE), MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND**  
**INDUSTRY**  
**DURING**  
**THE GENERAL DEBATE SESSION**  
**AT THE**  
**16<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND**  
**DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD 16).**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2025.**

**The President of the UNCTAD 16,**

**Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

At the outset, Zambia wishes to thank the Government of Switzerland for hosting this Ministerial Conference under the theme ***“Shaping the future: Driving economic transformation for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development”***.

We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to Ms. Rebeca Grynspan and her team at the secretariat for successfully organising this event.

**Mr. President,**

UNCTAD's work anchored on the three pillars; Research and Analysis, Consensus Building and Technical Cooperation, remains critical for Least Developing Countries in pursuing full and meaningful integration into the global economy. The existence of external shocks such as pandemics, geo-political tensions and the effects of climate change underscore the importance of UNCTAD.

LDC's remain among the most vulnerable to external shocks, as their economic structures leave them exposed and they lack the needed capacities to respond.

For this reason, measures to reduce these vulnerabilities are necessary and it is Zambia's submission that the following must be reflected in the UNCTAD 16 Outcome document:

1. The development of productive and transformative capacities to support economic diversification in our countries to enable smooth, and sustainable graduation from the LDC category;
2. Reducing vulnerabilities of LDCs to external shocks by addressing factors related to trade, finance, climate, natural disasters, technology and health, among others, which continue to have disproportionate impact on them.
3. UNCTAD to continue its work in supporting LDCs in the implementation of trade facilitation reforms in the context of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation.
4. UNCTAD to continue providing support to strengthen trade, industrial and transport policies, which facilitate development of infrastructure, roads, corridors, ports. The support should also include energy transition, supply chain sustainability and resilience.

**Mr President,**

I wish to report that Zambia is a beneficiary of various past and present technical assistance and capacity building support from UNCTAD. In the past, Zambia benefitted from UNCTAD support for research and analysis under the Doha Programme of Action through programmes which include:

1. **Completion of National Productive Capacities Gap Assessment** - In 2022, UNCTAD completed the National Productive Capacities Gap Assessment for Zambia. The assessment revealed the binding constraints to the structural transformation, economic diversification and productive capacity and provided sectoral policy recommendations.
2. **Development of a Vulnerability Profile for Zambia** - In 2023, UNCTAD supported the development of a Vulnerability Profile for Zambia including a road map for further technical assistance. The profile provided an in-depth analysis of the country's economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities and informed relevant policy interventions.
3. **Development of a Technology Assessment Project** - In 2024, UNCTAD supported the development of a Technology Assessment Project to help build national capacity to assess the impact of adopting biogas technology. The project highlighted the socio-economic and environmental implications of new and emerging technologies in the energy and agricultural sectors.
4. **The Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programme document for Zambia** - In 2024, UNCTAD supported the finalization of the Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programme document for Zambia. The programme document will be used to mobilise resources for effective implementation of the programme.

**Mr. President,**

Presently, Zambia is collaborating with UNCTAD in the following areas:

1. **Debt Management** – Zambia is currently working with UNCTAD to upgrade its debt management system through the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme (DMFAS). Implementation of the Project is ongoing with the Ministry of Finance and National Planning and the Bank of Zambia. Apart from Debt Management, Zambia, with other Members, is also collaborating with UNCTAD to find solutions to curb illicit financial flows.
2. **Value Addition** - Zambia is undertaking a Rapid Assessment of Value Addition and Diversification Capacity in Critical Energy Transition Minerals. This project builds on UNCTAD's work on critical minerals and other commodities and their potential for diversification and

development. The assessment is supported by Japan and will be concluded in the first quarter of 2026.

3. **E-Trade Readiness** - Zambia is also working with UNCTAD to review its Industrial Policy and is among other members working with UNCTAD to develop the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the e-Trade Readiness Assessment.
4. **Asycuda Support** - UNCTAD has been providing support to the Zambia Revenue Authority since 1994 through the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA). In 2013, the system was upgraded to ASYCUDA World and is currently in the process of migrating to ASY5.

**Mr. President,**

Zambia encourages UNCTAD to continue its contribution to the implementation of the 2022-2031 Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade and Agenda 2030.

As I conclude, Zambia is optimistic that the outcome of this conference will bring us closer to our collective objective.

Zambia reiterates its commitment and support for the mandate of UNCTAD on trade and development and will continue to collaborate with all Members for mutual benefit.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**

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