



**Zambia's Statement to the Joint High Level Segment of the  
Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC Serving as the Meeting  
of the Parties (CMP) to the Kyoto Protocol, Copenhagen,  
Denmark**

The president of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties,

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,

My Fellow Honourable Ministers and other Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to address this high level segment of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change also serving as the Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

On behalf of the Zambian delegation, allow me to join the rest of the speakers before me to congratulate you, Mr. President, for your election to the Presidency of this Conference to guide our work here.

**Mr. president,**

My country regards this Conference as crucial in galvanizing the world into addressing climate change in a more effective and concerted manner. It is our expectation that Copenhagen delivers tangible outcomes on the two separate tracks; an amendment of the Kyoto protocol pursuant to its article three paragraph nine and a legally binding instrument under the Convention track.

**Mr. president,**

Let me now outline our specific expectations from this important conference.

Zambia, like the rest of the world, is already experiencing the adverse effects of climate change. Our rainfall pattern is slowly diminishing and becoming unpredictable and this has undermined our agricultural productivity and resulted in perennial food shortages among our people. As such adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is not an option for us but an imperative and we expect this conference to deliver tangible results in this area.

**Mr. President,**

Financing both adaptation and mitigation will require huge amounts of resources which should be made readily available to the most vulnerable developing countries to help us cope with this challenge. These funds must be additional to the Official Development Assistance (ODA)), adequate, predictable and sustainable to ensure that our countries can address the challenge of climate change effectively.

To ensure that the disbursement of these funds to deserving countries is expedited and transparent, a financial mechanism with a balanced regional structure should be put in place. We therefore call for a single Fund to be established here with multiple windows to finance specific requirements such as adaptation, technology development and transfer, capacity building and the incentive mechanism in the forest sector, among others.

**Mr. President,**

In order for the poor and most vulnerable countries like Zambia to respond to climate change effectively, access to technology is crucial. Therefore, the Copenhagen Conference needs to deliver an effective technology development and transfer package which will overcome the traditional barriers such as high costs of these technologies and intellectual property rights, among others.

This support also needs to be extended to capacity building in order to enable our people learn new ways of responding to the challenges brought about by climate change. This is particularly important to our local communities who are at high risk and lack the means and knowledge to address the problem.

**Mr. President,**

It has been recognised that our forest and the general land use sector plays an important role in the mitigation of climate change but also have the potential to result in significant emissions if not well managed. It is therefore important that we provide incentives for forest dependant communities for managing their forests and land use properly.

It is our considered view that any mechanism addressing this sector needs to be broad and focused on sustainable development and not only narrowly on reducing emissions.

**Finally, Mr. President.**

Zambia calls on annex 1 countries to provide the necessary leadership and commitment to the reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by at least 45% by the year 2020 compared with their levels in 1990 if the world is to avert dangerous climate change. The base year of 1990 must not change and the outcomes need to be achieved in a Party-driven and transparent process as failure is not an option here.

Mr. President,

It is now generally understood that men and women suffer differently from the adverse impacts of climate change. It is therefore important that the outcome of this important conference takes into account the gender dimension of climate change. For the women and children of Zambia, COP-15 is a matter of life and death.

I thank you all.