

**STATEMENT BY MR WILLIAM J. HARRINGTON, M.P,
MINISTER FOR YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD
DEVELOPMENT OF ZAMBIA, TO THE THIRD
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNITED
NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE .**

**KYOTO, JAPAN
9 TH DECEMBER, 1997**

Mr President,

At the outset, allow me to register my delegation's congratulations on your well deserved election . I am confident that the commitment, energy, zeal and able leadership with which you have been guiding the proceedings of the conference, will assist our efforts, towards achieving our desired goals.

My delegation would also like to express its sincere appreciation to the people of Kyoto and the government of Japan for hosting this conference and for the excellent facilities provided to all delegates. It will be remiss on my part if I did not extend my gratitude to the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat for their tireless effort in facilitating our work at this conference.

Mr President,

Climate change impacts on all the citizens of this earth now and will do so in future. All of us have a moral obligation and responsibility to ensure equitable and sustainable development for the improvement of the quality of the lives of our peoples. To achieve this, we need to take concrete and deliberate action within the context of the Convention which set the various responsibilities of all parties and especially the leadership role of the developed country parties as stipulated in the Berlin Mandate. In addition, developed countries must assist the developing countries parties in their efforts to alleviate high levels of poverty in their countries. My delegation, however, recognises the principle of the common but differentiated responsibilities.

Mr President,

Zambia within the context of its developmental constraints,takes the issues of climate change seriously as has been demonstrated by the various steps we have taken even before the 1992 Environment Conference in Brazil. This is, underlined by the development and implementation of various policies, including, the National Conservation Strategy, the National Environmental Action Plan, the Forest Policy, the Energy Policy, the Agricultural Policy, the Water Master Plan. These policies, reflect strongly the measures that Zambia is undertaking to contribute, to the global action to reduce the emissions of various GHGs. Zambia, takes the importance of these policies and their impacts on climate change so seriously that it has given them the necessary force of law through Parliament.

Mr.President,

Zambia is looking forward to fully utilising her resource potential in the spirit of the Convention and would like to strengthen her regional and international cooperation to fully realise the potential. Towards this end, Zambia, requires the support of the countries which have technological advantages. In addition, the achievement of our goals, requires, that, technology transfer,should go hand in hand with the support for research and development, capacity building and strengthening of institutions.

Mr.President, there is need for our people to participate in the climate change debate and decision making process.To that effect it is imperative that public awareness programs be supported fully because it is only when we have a much wider public participation based

on their full understanding of the issues that we can hope to achieve our intended goals.

Mr.President, my delegation, once again, calls upon the industrialised countries to fulfill their commitments and assist developing countries such as Zambia in their efforts towards the alleviation of poverty and development of their countries and peoples.

Finally, Mr.President, allow me, to re-affirm my government`s commitment to the Convention and pledge our continued support.

I thank you.