



**Opening Statement by H.E. Mr Lazarus Kapambwe
Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations and
President of the UN Economic and Social Council for the
High-Level Symposium on “Working Together
to increase the Development Impact of Aid”
Luxembourg, 18 October 2011**

Your Excellency Minister Jacobs, Madam Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I join Minister Jacobs in welcoming all of you to this Symposium of the development Cooperation Forum on the topic, “working together to increase the development of aid.” Allow me also, through you Madam Minister, to thank the Government of Luxembourg for the hospitality extended and facilities put at our disposal.

As you are all aware, this is the second in a series of high-level symposia preparing for the 2012 DCF to be held at the end of June next year. The first symposium held in Bamako, Mali, in May this year focussed on “gearing development cooperation towards the MDGs: effectiveness and results,” while the third symposium to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, next month will address “aid effectiveness.”

I certainly look forward to the discussions and conclusions from the sub-topics of the Luxembourg symposium that include “how to mobilize development finance to achieve the MDGs;” how aid can catalyze domestic and external resources: lessons learned;” “how aid can help developing countries to promote domestic revenue mobilization;” “using aid as a catalyst for foreign direct investment,” and “enhancing coordination and mutual accountability at country level.” No less important will be the consultations that will take place between and among the DCF stakeholders – i.e. the developing countries, the donor countries and organizations and the non-executive stakeholders such as Parliamentarians, Civil Society, Local Governments and the Private Sector.

Excellencies,

Both the venue and timing of this symposium are significant. Luxembourg is a centre of world finance and plays a crucial role in European financial and fiscal policies. We meet at a time when Europe is facing its greatest test to its integration and the future of the Eurozone.

Given the size of the European economy and as the biggest donor to developing countries, the fate of Europe will determine the fate of the world economy, with the biggest impact being on developing countries.

The outcomes of this symposium are, therefore, being watched with great anticipation and trepidation.

The temptation may be to go for the easy and populist solutions, including scaling back on development assistance. I hope such temptation will be resisted because it will have devastating consequences on developing countries, whose effect will be felt across the world for a long time to come.

Excellencies,

It is said there is a silver lining in every cloud. I choose to see the global economic crisis as a symptom of an ailment that must be cured. It is an opportunity to rebalance, to adjust, to refocus, to re-align the global economy and our way of life. The tough and inconvenient questions must be asked and tough painful decisions and actions taken. As one Indian business with huge assets in Dexia Bank told me last evening at our hotel, “we need to get real, and we need to understand that reality is just half of the dream we have been living.”

Excellencies,

Let me end by thanking all our cooperating partners, on behalf of ECOSOC and on behalf of all recipient countries, of which my own country, Zambia, is one for the critical contribution you have made to the development of our countries. The significant progress towards the achievement of MDGs made by our countries could not have been made without your assistance. We hope that you will accompany us towards completion of the journey we started together. For our part, we pledge to account for and use your assistance diligently and for the benefit of our people.

I wish you successful deliberations and thank you for your attention.
