



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT BY

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CHARGE D' AFFAIRES FOR
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AS CHAIR OF THE GROUP OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES

AT

THE 2017 ECOSOC FORUM ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
FOLLOW-UP MINISTERIAL SEGMENT GENERAL DEBATE

NEW YORK
22ND MAY, 2017

Mr. President,
Excellences,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have honour to deliver the statement on behalf of the group of 32 Land Locked Developing Countries. I wish to congratulate the President of ECOSOC for convening this important forum on follow up to Financing for Development. I also want to thank the Excellences Ambassador Mr. Jerry Mathews Matjila, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa and Ambassador Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve PR of Belgium for their tremendous work and great effort as Co-facilitators in trying to help us reach an outcome for this 2017 ECOSOC FfD Forum.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) is central to accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the other development frameworks including Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction and the Vienna Programme of Action. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda recognize the unique challenges that the Land Locked Developing Countries face stemming from landlockedness. The 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda both recognise the great importance of international trade as the means to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to achieving inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction.

However the LLDCs cannot fully harness trade for their development due to high trade costs which are largely due to long distances from seaports and poorly developed transport and transit systems and cumbersome border and transit procedures. Due to their geographical situation, the LLDCs are faced with different developmental challenges including lower levels of overall economic development and lower levels of human development. In addition the LLDCs perform poorly as hosts for FDI.

Mr. President,

As a group we would like to stress the importance of the following issues for our successful development:

1. There is a need to enhance infrastructure development in the LLDCs particularly in transport, energy and information communication technology.
2. ODA remains an important source of financing for LLDCs and should be enhanced to support the achievement of the SDGs by the LLDCs. FDI is also critical for financing the huge infrastructure gap in the LLDCs. Capacity building in accessing financing will be a key means of implementation in LLDCs. LLDCs need enhanced capacity to develop bankable projects and design public policies that can support sustainable infrastructure investments. Development banks, including multilateral financial institutions and regional banks, should address gaps in transport and transit related regional infrastructure in LLDCs and

consider special instruments and vehicles that can help the LLDCs de-risk investments, attract new finances including through blended finances and targeted long-term concessional loans for critical infrastructure.

3. The Global Infrastructure Forum should give due priority to the transit transport infrastructure development concerns of the LLDCs and their neighbours and come up with innovative solutions to meet the infrastructure needs of the LLDCs.
4. We stress that improved trade facilitation, including through further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved in border clearance, would help LLDCs to enhance the competitiveness of their export products and services. We welcome the entry into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and call for its full and timely implementation, and stress the need for enhancing technical assistance and capacity building to facilitate its implementation.

I thank you.