



# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

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PRE-RECORDED STATEMENT DELIVERED BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

ON THE SDG MOMENT

DURING THE

SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021  
New York

MR. ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

I wish to start by commending you for successfully convening this Session on the “SDG Moment”. The convening of this event is a clear testimony of the commitment that our countries attach towards full implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We live in a changing and dynamic global environment, in which countries are interdependent and collaborate with each other in finding solutions to emerging challenges such as climate change, the COVID 19 Pandemic, Terrorism, widening technological divide and illegal migration.

Since the adoption of the SDGS in 2016, Zambia made its first Voluntary National Review in 2019, and presented some milestones.

However, progress towards meeting the goals of the “2030 Agenda” has not been without challenges. Notable, is the coming of the COVID-19 pandemic that has compounded the pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities in all spheres of the economy. The pandemic disrupted agricultural production, trade and supply chains. Further, the health care system and the provision of education system was gravely disrupted, especially in parts of the country with inadequate ICT solutions.

There is an urgent need to enhance Africa’s capacity for innovation and development of ICT infrastructure to enable most developing countries, including Zambia, to realize and enjoy the benefits arising from “industry 4.0”.

Zambia remains committed to accelerating the implementation of interventions towards the attainment of the SDGs, while recognizing the need to enhance existing coordination, enhance efficiencies, improve targeting mechanisms, and efficient allocation of resources to deliver desired results.

It is therefore important that we leverage on our resources as a global community in order advance progress for the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

I thank you.