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**Republic of Zambia**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**DR BRILLIANT HABEENZU, PERMANENT SECRETARY**

**MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY AND**

**SCIENCE,**

**DURING THE**

**2024 INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

**ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNICAL  
COOPERATION**

**NOVEMBER, 2024**

**THE CO-CHAIRS**  
**YOUR EXCELLENCIES,**  
**DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,**  
**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

ON BEHALF OF THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT, IT IS BOTH AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO ADDRESS THIS DISTINGUISHED, 2024 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

**CO-CHAIRS**

WE ARE EXCITED WITH THE GROWING RECOGNITION AND INTEGRATION OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF SOLUTIONS FOR ADDRESSING CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL CHALLENGES. AS ZAMBIA, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMMENSE POTENTIAL OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES IN COMBATING FOOD INSECURITY, MITIGATING EMERGING DISEASES, AND ENHANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE.

ZAMBIA APPRECIATES THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY'S TIRELESS EFFORTS IN DEMYSTIFYING AND PROMOTING THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO CONTINUE COLLABORATING WITH THE AGENCY TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY FOR OUR PEOPLE.

**CO-CHAIRS**

THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS EMBARKED ON AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM TO FAST TRACK INCLUSIVE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THROUGH APPLICATION AND ADOPTION OF KEY TECHNOLOGIES. WE ARE CLEAR WITH THE POTENTIAL OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS AN ENABLER TO SPUR GROWTH AND EFFECTIVENES IN VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, INCLUDING HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, WATER AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINING SECTOR. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, GIVEN THAT ZAMBIA IS PREDOMINANTLY A MINING COUNTRY. IN ADDITION TO COPPER, WHICH IS THE CORNERSTONE OF ZAMBIA'S MINING INDUSTRY, WE ALSO HAVE MANY PRECIOUS STONES, SUCH AS GEMSTONES, WHICH COULD GREATLY BENEFIT FROM THE CAPABILITIES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES IN VALUE ADDITION.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE AGENCY, THROUGH THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS AS WE NAVIGATE THE PATH TO THE FULL REALISATION OF THE BENEFITS FROM NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL USES.

### **CO-CHAIRS**

ZAMBIA LIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE SADC REGION EXPERIENCED SEVERE DROUGHT IN 2023/24 SEASON, DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THE DROUGHT DEVASTATED HYDROELECTRICITY GENERATION, WHICH DRASTICALLY REDUCED ELECTRICITY AVAILABILITY FOR DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL USE. THIS CAUSED HUGE ECONOMIC LOSSES AND NEGATIVELY AFFECTING THE ENTIRE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN AS WELL AS EXPORTS

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS ALSO LED TO THE EMERGENCE OF NEW DISEASES AND PESTS THAT CAN BE TRANSMITTED FROM ANIMALS TO HUMANS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE RISE OF ZOO NOTIC DISEASES.

### **CO-CHAIRS**

IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE, WE ARE HAPPY TO WORK WITH THE AGENCY THROUGH A TC PROJECT, WHICH EMPLOYS NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES, WITH A VIEW TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF LOW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND FOOD INSECURITY, THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED VARIETIES OF MAIZE, SORGHUM, COWPEA AND SWEET POTATO.

## **CO-CHAIRS**

IN HEALTHCARE, ZAMBIA IS EXPERIENCING RISING CASES OF CANCER ACROSS AGE GROUPS. TO ADDRESS THIS CHALLENGE, WE ARE WORKING WITH THE AGENCY TO ENHANCE CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT. THROUGH THIS COLLABORATION, OUR SECOND RADIOTHERAPY CENTER IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL BY FEBRUARY 2025. THE EXISTING CANCER DISEASES HOSPITAL IS ALSO UNDERGOING SIGNIFICANT UPGRADES, INCLUDING THE DECOMMISSIONING OF OLD EQUIPMENT.

ZAMBIA WILL APPRECIATE THE AGENCY'S TECHNICAL SUPPORT IN PREPARING FOR THE OPENING OF THESE UPGRADED AND NEW FACILITIES. ADDITIONALLY, ZAMBIA EAGERLY ANTICIPATES THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAYS OF HOPE INITIATIVE, FOLLOWING HER SELECTION AS A SECOND-WAVE COUNTRY. THIS INITIATIVE HAS RECORDED REMARKABLE SUCCESS IN STRENGTHENING CANCER MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING ITS EFFECTIVE ROLLOUT IN ZAMBIA.

## **CO-CHAIRS**

IN CONCLUSION, THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS ITS UNWAVERING SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO THE AGENCY'S MISSION. WE BELIEVE THAT WITH CONTINUED COLLABORATION, NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAN TAKE ITS SPACE AS A KEY ASPECT OF THE ECOSYSTEM TO UNLOCK TRANSFORMATIVE SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES, FOSTER INNOVATION, AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL.

**THANK YOU**