



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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NATIONAL STATEMENT

BY

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**SIT POLICIES AND INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT-BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

(MINISTERIAL SESSION)

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Excellencies,

The harnessing and judicious application of Science, Technology and Innovation creates the basis for realizing solutions to the many challenges being faced by the people in addition to fostering socio-economic development. Therefore, Zambia has created the necessary environment for the harnessing and application of ST&I for socio-economic development through the development of the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy of 2020, National Research Agenda and the National Industrial Policy among other interventions which are all aligned to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, the country is alive to the fact that to attain socio-economic development through the application of ST&I, there is need to leverage on cooperation and networking in ST&I more so that the world has become a global village in which nations depend on one another to break the frontiers that impede development. As a consequence, Zambia is engaged in a number of cooperation and networking aimed at enhancing the ST&I sector both regionally and internationally. On the local scene, the country is streamlining the stakeholder base in the ST&I sector so as to enhance networking and coordination of the sector.

In addition, with the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, the country has enforced its research and development in a multidisciplinary approach as it has been noted that the effects of the pandemic are cross cutting. Further, the country has enhanced its

adoption and adaption of technologies and innovations for the attainment of the SDGs both from the formal and informal sectors within the country. The informal sector contribution has been highly marginalized but after a critical gap analysis, it has been realized that the informal sector contribution is highly significant to national development. Therefore, the higher learning institutions including those specialized in providing skills and entrepreneurship training are being equipped to enhance R&D especially in the areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics as the country positions itself for the dawn of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In enhancing the ST&I sector, the country has equally realized and acknowledged the importance of the Indigenous Knowledge System (IKS). Therefore, as a country we are equally promoting the blending of science with indigenous knowledge in our various research centers so as to get maximum benefits from our locally generated knowledge. However, it should be noted that as we promote our indigenous knowledge we equally leverage on the open science space and import foreign knowledge that can be domesticated through ST&I and utilized for the benefit of the people.

I Thank you.