



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**COUNTRY STATEMENT
BY THE
MINISTER OF WATER DEVELOPMENT AND SANITATION
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**WATER INVESTMENTS TO
SUPPORT ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION
Interactive Dialogue - Water for Sustainable Development:
Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic
and Urban Development**

UN 2023 Water Conference 22 — 24 Mar 2023, New York

**Wed 22 Mar 2023, 3.00 pm
Conference Room 4, UNHQ, New York
UN DESA, UN Water**

MARCH 2023

EXCELLENCIES, HONOURABLE MINISTERS, HEADS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INSTITUTIONS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

ZAMBIA ASPIRES TO BE A PROSPEROUS MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRY BY THE YEAR 2030. TO ACTUALISE THE ATTAINMENT OF THIS VISION, GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AS BUILDING BLOCKS TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF THE VISION 2030. UNDER THE VISION 2030, ZAMBIA SEEKS TO ATTAIN UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CLEAN AND SAFE WATER AND 90 PERCENT SANITATION SERVICES. THIS IS IN LINE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL NUMBER 6 WHICH SEEKS TO ENSURE WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL.

CURRENTLY, GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING THE EIGHTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH IS ANCHORED ON FOUR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREAS NAMELY ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION, HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE ENVIRONMENT. UNDER ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION, WATER HAS BEEN PRIORITISED AS AN ECONOMIC ENABLER OF ECONOMIC SECTORS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, TOURISM, MINING AND MANUFACTURING AMONG OTHERS. INVESTMENTS IN THESE ECONOMIC SECTORS IS KEY TO TRANSFORMING AND DIVERSIFYING THE ECONOMY FROM THE TRADITIONAL DOMINANT SECTORS OF WHOLESAL AND RETAIL TRADE, MINING, QUARRYING AND CONSTRUCTION, WHICH LARGELY ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT **50 PERCENT** OF THE COUNTRY'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT. IN THIS REGARD, INVESTMENTS IN CLIMATE RESILIENT WATER STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IS CRUCIAL IF ZAMBIA IS TO ATTAIN NATIONAL WATER SECURITY AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION AGENDA.

UNDER HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREA OF THE EIGHTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS CATALYTIC INGREDIENTS TO HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY AS IT PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN THE PREVENTION OF OUTBREAK OF WATERBORNE DISEASES AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN DIGNITY. WATER ALSO PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION.

ZAMBIA'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, ECOSYSTEMS AND WATER RESOURCES HAVE COME UNDER THREAT DUE TO ANTHROPOGENIC ACTIVITIES COMPOUNDED BY CLIMATE CHANGE. ZAMBIA'S VISION 2030 EMPHASISES DEVELOPMENT THAT IS ANCHORED ON SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT, ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES. TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR SOCIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT UNDER THE EIGHTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, HAS ALSO PRIORITISED THE RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WETLANDS, HEADWATERS AND RIVER LINE, AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION INCLUDING PROTECTION OF WATER CATCHMENT AREAS.

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INVESTMENTS IN WATER ARE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION WHICH WILL RESULT IN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRANSLATE INTO JOB CREATION, POVERTY REDUCTION AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE. INVESTMENT IN WATER AND SANITATION WILL ALSO RESULT INTO IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES AND CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY.

I AM OF THE STRONG CONVICTION THAT THE OUTCOMES OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE WILL ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY WATER AND SANITATION INTERVENTIONS THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ATTAINMENT OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GOALS AND TARGETS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL NUMBER SIX (6) AS WELL AS ZAMBIA'S VISION 2030

I THANK YOU