

**INTERVENTION BY THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION ON THE DISCUSSION ON THE
TRANSPORT THEMATIC AREA DURING THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE UN
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 4 MAY 2010**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates

I wish first of all to congratulate you for being elected Chair of this meeting and for the time accorded to me to contribute to this discussion. The Zambian delegation wishes to associate itself with the statements made by the Yemen representative on behalf of the G77 and China and the representative of the Federal Government of Nigeria on behalf of Africa. Let me also commend the Secretary General for the Reports that have been prepared for the meeting which the delegation found useful.

The transport sector performs a key role as a catalyst to achieve socio-economic development. In this vein, Zambia in 2002 developed a transport policy to provide general direction in the development of transport. The policy targets the main modes of transport, that is, Road, Rail, Water and Air. Zambia has also developed relevant legislation to harmonise the road traffic and safety standards, in conformity with regional and international protocols.

The focus is to take an integrated planning approach for transport and spatial development in key strategic areas to optimize economic activity and growth. In this regard, various programs and activities to provide a safe, efficient, integrated and environmentally friendly transport system which meets the needs of users are being implemented.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia is working with other countries in the region to simplify border crossing and checkpoints for transportation. This is in view of, among other things, to reduce the waiting time for transit formalities for exports and imports. In particular, an ultra modern **One Stop Border Post** has been established at Chirundu between Zambia and Zimbabwe that has facilitated the smooth and efficient flow of goods.

Given our geographical location as a hinterland country, Zambia is working with other neighbouring maritime states to develop cost-effective transit corridors through the adoption and implementation of the Spatial Development Initiative (SDI). SDI allows for economic integration and joint development of efficient transport logistics. This concept is being extended to other borders that Zambia shares with its neighbours.

Mr. Chairman

In line with sustainable development principles of conserving energy, Zambia is exploring the use of alternative sources of energy for transportation. In this regard, policy and standards for bio-fuels, with adequate safeguards have been put in place.

Furthermore, the country has introduced a carbon tax as a measure to contribute towards addressing the problem of climate change. In addition, the country phased out the use of leaded fuel in March 2008. This demonstrates Zambia's commitment to minimise the impact of emissions on the environment.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to state that the key challenge still remains the high cost of technology and the availability of finance for infrastructure development. The Zambian government has been working with the support of development partners to develop its infrastructure. We therefore, appeal to the international community to give special attention to infrastructure development needs of Landlocked developing countries.

I thank you Mr. Chair.