

**STATEMENT OF HONOURABLE BRENDA MWIKA TAMBATAMBA, MINISTER
OF LABOUR & SOCIAL SECURITY, ZAMBIA DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 110TH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE ON 9TH JUNE,
2022, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

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President of the Conference and distinguished Delegates,

It is my singular honour and privilege to address the Conference on the seminal themes aptly articulated in the Reports of the Director General of ILO and the Chairperson of the Governing Body.

Zambia congratulates the in-coming Director-General of the ILO, His Excellency, Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo on his election to the Office and we take special notice of his resonance with, and awareness of, the challenges of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) enunciated in the Report of the Director-General. We remain hopeful that he will continue to build on the commendable gains achieved under the leadership of our out-going Director-General, Mr Guy Ryder.

The Report of the Director-General poignantly expresses factors that threaten to wipe off gains made by LDCs towards the pursuit of social justice. The pervading challenges of labour markets in LDCs can potentially

fill us with angst and overwhelm our collective resolve and commitment towards the universal goal of social justice but we must be more resilient.

The sustained conversation on the Social and Solidarity Economy resonates with Zambia's Eighth National Development Plan whose vision seeks to graduate Zambia from a LDC to a Prosperous Middle Income Country by 2030. The Plan is anchored on four pillars, namely-

- Economic transformation and job creation;
- Human and social development;
- Environmental sustainability; and
- Good governance environment.

This plan prioritizes the welfare of people and planet over profits. It sets out structural transformations necessary to overcome an extremely challenging economic situation exacerbated by the covid-19 pandemic, high debt and other external shocks.

Thus, international solidarity is an imperative and more than ever, the multilateral system must work persistently, with common purpose, to pursue complementary objectives so that “No One is Left Behind.”

Zambia has created the Small and Medium Enterprises Ministry to harness this potential for growth of our economy and address the dichotomy in the

sizes of enterprises ultimately aiding the transition of small economic units from informality to formality.

The 2022 budget significantly increased allocation of fiscal resources to all constituencies in Zambia in a devolved manner so as to stimulate and promote responsive socio-economic development at grass root level.

Debt management or sustainability is a key focus area for Zambia as She seeks to create the much needed fiscal space to undertake even more robust economic recovery, stabilisation and steady growth in an environmentally sustainable way.

To strengthen social dialogue and in recognition of the critical role of the private sector in our development agenda, Zambia launched the Public-Private Dialogue Forum which aims at strengthening private sector engagement and facilitating collaboration among relevant stakeholders to address critical sector specific constraints.

In this last decade of action towards realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is incumbent upon us all to ensure that No One is Left Behind. We must all resound the ILO's enduring principle that universal and lasting peace can be established ONLY if it is based upon social justice.

I THANK YOU.