STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR CHALWE LOMBE AT THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF LLDCS FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS: NEW YORK - 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2016

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

LUSAKA
September, 2016
H.E. Mr. Munkh-Orgil Tsend, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

Honourable Ministers present

Excellencies

I wish to convey the Government of Zambia’s Appreciation to H.E. Mr. Munkh-Orgil Tsend, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and Vice Chair of the LLDCs group, as well as H.E. Mr. Damcho Dorji Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan, for taking up the task to Chair the meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers for the group of Landlocked Developing Countries. I wish to inform this Forum that Zambia successfully held the Presidential, parliamentary and local government elections on 11th August, 2016, at which His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu was re-elected as Zambia’s President. However, H.E. Harry Kalaba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zambia was unable to travel to attend this very important Annual meeting, but sends his best wishes for the success of this important meeting.

I also wish to thank the UNDP Administrator, the Under Secretary General for Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the UNCTAD Secretary General who came and spoke earlier at this meeting. This meeting is very critical because of its special focus on a topical theme in the UN Sustainable Development, which is;
“Harnessing Coherence in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Vienna Platform of Action”

I must state that, with globalisation making the world markets more and more integrated, Harnessing Coherence, within our own countries, at a regional level, at a continental level and ultimately at the global level is the cardinal. There is need to implement policy measures that have a multidimensional approach to landlockedness as a development challenge. We can do this by continuously reforming our economies to the dictates of times, taking into account transport-related obstacles, and improving the productive capacities as a key element of reform processes.

Honourable Ministers,

To achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) and to implement the six priority areas in the Vienna Platform of Action, requires strengthened partnerships and collaboration amongst ourselves, with transit countries and development partners. Within the broad framework of development cooperation including through South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation platforms as well as a mutually beneficial North-South Cooperation, the financial and technical support to LLDCs will enhance implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action priorities. Further, we need to stress the critical role of the private sector in mobilising resources to complement public sector efforts in implementing projects in strategic sectors such infrastructure
development, energy security, regional integration, industrialization and value addition which have a direct bearing on alleviating the challenges of landlockedness and consequently poverty reduction is key.

**Honourable Ministers,**

In order to effectively harness coherence in implementation of Agenda 2030, I wish to stress the need to work to together with our international development partners in implementing priority actions that address our special needs as landlocked developing countries. These efforts should be synergised in our National development plans and strategies through mainstreaming the key development policies of the VPoA, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement and initiatives, among others.

**Honourable Ministers,**

Zambia through the five year revised Sixth National Development Plan from 2011 to 2016 has continued to make progress in sustainable development. Stakeholders are in the process of preparing the Seventh National Development Plan that is instrumental to ensure a coherent and integrated approach towards sustainable development framework which would also work towards
being a land-linked country. Though there have been challenges in implementing the six priority areas in the Vienna Plan of Action to address constraints from land-lockedness, Zambia is leveraging its central location in the Southern African Sub-Region to itself to develop a well-functioning commercial hub.

Honourable Ministers,

Among some of the policy measures the country has undertaken and also in the process of addressing the six priority areas in the Vienna Plan of Action are on;

1. Transit Policy Issues

Zambia in conjunction with other landlocked developing countries and transit countries in the sub-region has developed supportive institutional frameworks, such as transport and trade facilitation bodies or coordination committees, road funds and border facilities. We have simplified, streamlined and harmonized procedures leading to increased efficiency and fewer delays. Further, Zambia has engaged neighboring Countries and has signed simplified trade agreements and Bilateral Transport Agreements with countries such as Angola, Botswana, Congo Democratic Republic, Namibia and Tanzania respectively in an effort to harmonise trade and transport policies.
2. Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

Zambia has prioritised infrastructure development cutting across all sectors and is aims to transform into hub in the areas of Information Communication Technology, Power Generation and Distribution, Tourism and transport Facilitation, among others. There are also numerous on-going infrastructure projects with others that are in the pipeline covering roads, railways, aviation, water, and energy security, ICTs, among others.

3. International Trade and Trade Facilitation / Regional Integration and Cooperation

At the continental level, Zambia is part of the negotiations for the establishment of a continental free Trade Area which will create a bigger market of 650 million people. The tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement is the largest free trade area in Africa with a GDP of 13 trillion United States Dollars. At a regional level, Zambia is undertaking joint projects such as the Kasungula Bridge with Botswana, development of coal fired power plant with Mozambique, to mention just a few.

4. Structural Economic Transformation

Diversifying the economy away from copper dependency is a key priority. In this connection, the Government is focusing on value addition to mineral processing and agricultural primary products as well as promoting tourism and crop diversification,
these have the greatest potential to contribute to rapid diversification on of the economy.

5. Means of implementation

The Zambian Government recognizes the catalytic role of the private sector in bridging the resource gaps in financing development. Therefore the private sector and international partners will play a crucial role in resource mobilisation for national development. The Government is also promoting Public Private Partnerships and Build Operate and Transfer business models as way of implementing high value developmental projects.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I wish to stress that these efforts need not only a coherent approach, but also strengthened and targeted support through enhanced partnership with international community. Further, support to boost regional integration and cooperation that involves LLDCs remains critical in achieving sustainable development.

Zambia therefore emphasizes on the establishment of special windows and facilities such as a dedicated fund for LLDCs to complement implementation of the programmes and activities of member states.

I thank you for your attention