

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
**ON THE**  
**COP 27 IN EGYPT**  
**BY THE**  
**THE MINISTER OF GREEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT (ENG. NZOVU), MP**

**COP27 IN EGYPT**

Madam Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for allowing me to make this ministerial statement on the forthcoming 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held from 6<sup>th</sup> November to 18<sup>th</sup> November in Sharm El-Sheikh in the Republic of Egypt.

Madam Speaker, climate change is the most pressing issue facing humanity today. It is a global problem that will need co-operation from all countries of the world in order to solve the crisis. This is because greenhouse gasses do not respect sovereign territorial boundaries of any individual country. Indeed, greenhouse gasses that are emitted in countries as far as a field as China, India, the United States (US) or the European Union (EU) will ultimately contribute to global warming in faraway places such as Zambia. For this reason, climate change negotiations are done under the global forum, the UNFCCC, which was adopted in 1992 and whose objective is to stabilise the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gasses to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The convention, which entered into force on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1994 now has 119 parties. Zambia signed the UNFCCC on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1992 and ratified it on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1993.

Madam Speaker, the Kyoto Protocol, which was adopted in 1997, provides legal force for industrialised countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and it is headed by the COP serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP). On the other hand, the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 is aimed at enhanced and more effective implementation of climate change programmes by aiming at restricting average global increase in temperature to 2°C while working towards limiting it to 1.5°C by the end of this century. The Paris Agreement is headed

by the Conference serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA). The COP and now the CMA are held simultaneously annually and constitute the highest decision-making body on climate change to provide guidance on the implementation of the provisions of the convention and decisions aimed at addressing global climate change. Therefore, the main objective of COP each year is to review the implementation of the provisions of the UNFCCC in order to ensure effectiveness in addressing the global challenge.

Madam Speaker, it is for this reason that I now stand on the Floor of this House to render a ministerial statement on the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties commonly referred to as (COP27). I will also touch on the matters that happened at COP26 in Glasgow. Permit me to start with COP27.

Madam Speaker, Zambia will be attending COP27 in Egypt next week and the leader of the Zambian delegation as was the case for COP26, will be His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema. We need such a high-level delegation leader at COP because in these conferences, there are three requisite ingredients to unlock international financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental protection and these include the following:

*(a) Political Commitment*

This relates to leadership and understanding that is required to build the courage, the confidence and the political space for accelerated climate mitigation and adaptation actions. This calls for a clear vision and commitment to pursue it from the political leadership, including good governance, prudent utilisation of scarce resources and zero tolerance to corruption. In our case, the New Dawn Government's vision for tackling climate change to ensure environmental sustainability is summed up in the name of my ministry: Green Economy and Environment;

*(b) Institutional Arrangements*

Improving institutional arrangements at all levels, that is, national, provincial, district and local levels so as to better manage future challenges posed by climate change within the multi-dimensional context of modern day social, economic and developmental pressure; and

(c) *Policy Framework*

A structured process for developing climate change strategies, policies and measures to enhance and ensure human development in the face of climate change including Climate Variability

Madam Speaker, of the three requisite ingredients for unlocking international climate financing listed above, I dare say that political commitment bears the highest premium. Today, the whole world has confidence in President Hakainde Hichilema and it wants to talk with him because it clearly understands his vision, and he is walking the talk. In the climate change space, we want to capitalise on this goodwill and make the most out of it in terms of lobbying for climate finance to enable us enhance the implementation of our climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes which define our green economy and environment agenda. Additionally, our institutional arrangements and policy frameworks for climate change mitigation and adaptation are robust and solid enough to complement the high political commitment that we are enjoying at the moment.

Madam Speaker, COP27 is dubbed an “Implementation COP” essentially highlighting the fact that we as a global community of nations are running out of time to meet our global goal of limiting global warming to 2°C let alone 1.5°C by the end of this century. Indeed the 2028 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on 1.5°C is unequivocal when it finds that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities. Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide would need to fall by about 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050. This means that any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by removing carbon dioxide from the air.

The question is: What happens if we overshoot the 2°C global goal limit? The answer is that exceeding the 2°C global goal limit will take us into an extremely dangerous territory, what we call climate tipping points, which are conditions beyond which changes in a part of a climate system become self-perpetuating. These changes may lead to abrupt irreversible and dangerous impact with serious implications for humanity. For a country like Zambia, which is deep in the interior, a Rainy Season without a single drop of rain could be a possibility. For low-lying small island states, the possibility of sea level rise that would submerge the entire island with people and property remains a possibility. The majority of the small island states are now ravaged by increasingly severe storms. The unprecedented floods that ravaged Pakistan in the last few months are another reminder of climate tipping points. The danger is real.

Madam Speaker, as a global community of nations there are essentially three gaps that Conference of Parties (COP) 26 in Glasgow could not close that were taking to COP 27 and these include the following:

#### *Mitigation Gap*

Climate mitigation pledges in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of all parties to the Paris Agreement put together fall off the 2 deg global target. In fact, with their current mitigation ambitious as at COP 27, they would leave us with the temperature increase of 2.7deg by the turn of the century. This is contrary to the global goal of 2 deg, we have off set for ourselves as a global community.

#### *Financing gap*

As a COP 26, the climate financing for climate change mitigation and adaption was US\$20 billion shorts of the US\$100 billion pledge that was made at COP 15 in Copenhagen in 2009. Even then, committed pledges would only be actualised in 2023, if any at all.

### *Adaption gap*

As at COP 26, adaption financing was a 25 per cent instead of the 50 per cent split between mitigation and adaption which is recommended by the Paris Agreement.

Madam Speaker, it is because of the challenges highlighted above, among others that COP 27 has been dubbed as an implementation cop. It is hoped that the global community of nations will put their hands together at COP 27 to close the gaps highlighted above in the meaningful manner. The developed countries will be expected to commit an actualise significantly more ambitious mitigation and financing pledges.

Madam Speaker, COP 27 is also special in the sense that, it will take place on the African continent. A continent responsible for only 4 per cent of the global emissions and, yet suffering the most from the climate shocks. For our beloved country Zambia, COP 27 is special because having being elected as chair of the African group of negotiators, we will lead Africa during the climate change negotiations having facilitated the preparations of the Africa common positions including the key messages adopted by the African ministerial conference on the environment chaired by yours truly here and the committee of the African heads of states and the Government on climate change chaired by His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema.

Madam Speaker, in this regard, the following are the key messages in the African position that Zambia will present at COP 27.

### *Enhanced Climate Finance*

COP 27 must deliver ambitious financial outcomes, including delivery of the much promised US\$100 billion, delivery of the COP 26 financial pledges, significant progress on setting the new collective mobilisation goal for 2025, and establish financing for just transition pathways to support developing countries.

### *Strengthen Adaption Actions*

For the Africa group, a successful adaption outcome at COP 27 in Egypt will have to include delivery of a substantive milestone in the work programme on the global goal on adaption. To inform the assessment of progress towards achieving the global goal adaption in the first global stock take.

### *Enhance Support to Address Loss and Damage*

COP 27, is expected to make progress on the provision of both technical and financial support to developing countries to address loss and damage associated with climate change. There is a need to establish a formal agenda item to discuss financing arrangements for loss and damage.

### *Consideration and Recognition of Africa Special Needs and Circumstances*

While Africa only contributes less than 4 per cent of green house gases that are responsible for global warming, the continent is the worst affected by the impacts of climate change. Thus, COP 27 must launch work on a consideration on a special needs and circumstances of Africa under the Paris Agreement in line with the relevant and previous decisions adopted by the COPs.

### *Enhance Mitigation Ambition and Implementation*

COP 27 should respond to the latest report of the inter-Governmental panel on climate change and take decisions to enhance mitigation actions and advanced implementation of the NDCs. The developed countries should scale up their mitigation actions and provide necessary support to developing countries to contribute their fair shares.

### *Financing for Just Transition Pathways*

Building on COP 26, decisions and initiatives, COP 27 should take decisions on financial support to promote sustainable development and support African countries effectively move

away fossil-heavy development models in a just and fair manner. COP 27 needs to secure meaningful commitments and investments for programmatic renewable energy at scale and support the social and equity dimensions of the just transition pathways.

### *Implementation Package*

COP 27 is expected to provide support for the implementation of Africa led initiatives including renewable energy and adaptation.

Madam Speaker, even as we shall speak on behalf of the African continent, in our capacity as African Group of Negotiators (AGN) Chair at COP 27, we shall also push our country position in order to address the climate change challenges that are specific to our nation circumstances, including own adaptation the need to define the global goal adaptation and increase financial and technical and technological support for implementing the national adaptation plan and adaptation components of the national determined contributions.

Madam Speaker, on loss and damage, we refer to the consequences of climate change that go beyond what people can adapt to or when options exist, but the community does not have the resource to access or utilise them. In this regard, Zambia will ask COP 27 to clarify and operationalise the institutional structure for the loss and damage including operational modalities.

Madam Speaker, matters related to finance, Zambia expects COP 27 to deliver on the new goal or target for climate financing commensurate with science and the developing needs or developing countries including deliver on the overdue US\$100 billion pledge by developed countries. The operational definition on climate finance, new collective mobilisation goal on climate finance, financing for just transitions, need for developed countries to commit to higher mitigation targets that are commensurate with the global goal of limiting warming to 1.5 deg and capacity building.

Madam Speaker, climate change is a knowledge intensive arena and requires adept negotiators. I can confirm that our negotiators are well prepared and ready for the tasks ahead at COP 27.

Madam Speaker, in order to ensure our full and effect participation, Zambia has for the very first time established its own pavilion and delegation office which will allow zamia to have adequate space for the delegation to showcase our interventions in transitioning to a climate resilient and inclusive green economy. This space will also be used to promote Zambia's climate-friendly tourism, mining, energy and agriculture potential to delegates from other parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) participating at COP 27, including many other investments opportunities that the country offers.

Madam Speaker, this is a pavilion for Zambia and such, all ministries and we hope as many as possible will there, agencies and other collaborating partners are welcome to exhibit the pavilion as part of our collective desire to market Zambia investment potential to the outside world in order to grow our economy and create jobs for the youths.

Madam Speaker, most importantly is that our pavilion will allow us ample space and flexibility in setting up bilateral meetings with potential partners for climate financing. Indeed, immediate positive results from COP meetings are usually measured by the volume of successful memoranda of understanding that are achieved following the COP meetings. Indeed, a number of high-level bilateral engagements for His Excellency the President of the republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, other hon. Ministers and I are planned for COP 27 and others are still being finalised.

Madam Speaker, let me now quickly turn to some of the achievements we made at COP 26 in Glasgow through bilateral engagement to you a glimpse of the potential benefits that we are likely to reap from COP 27.

On the sidelines of Conference Of Parties (COP) 26, His Excellency the President, Mr Hakainde Hichilema engaged with the then British Prime Minister, Mr Boris Johnson and signed a Green Compact Deal which focuses on mitigation measures that reduce green house gas emission while



promoting adaptation and seek solutions toward that the impact of climate change. It was mutually agreed that over the next five years, there will be an additional £1 billion, the United Kingdom (UK) Foreign Direct Investment ingested in Zambia. Further, pledges were made to support Zambia's effort to a green growth for Small and Medium Enterprises to create jobs as well as support competitiveness in regional trade and investments.

Madam Speaker, on the carbon trade, Zambia has received support from the German Government through a project dubbed supporting preparedness for Article 6 Cooperative Approaches Projects. This is aimed at supporting the country in its readiness to engage in carbon trading as provided for in the Paris Agreement. Zambia, Madam Speaker has also received support from the Global Green Growth Institute to support the development of the Green Growth Strategy for Zambia. The support is for the provisional of technical expertise to facilitate the development of the Green Growth Indexes.

Madam Speaker, the projects like Lake Tanganyika and the ZIPL Projects which were at the verge of being cancelled because of political interference leading to violation of the principles of cost due to rampant corruption, low quality of works by contractors and late delivery of projects were not only given a new lease of life, but the projects end dates have since been extended.

Madam Spekaer, I am glad to inform you that these projects are now performing well and the bank has since promised to start new ones. As part of the process to contribute to the commitment made at COP 26 to halt deforestation by 2030, Zambia will at the COP 27 sign a memorandum of understating with the European Union (EU). The memorandum of understanding is aimed at enhancing the role of Zambian forests in sustainable and inclusive national development and addressing challenges related to deforestation, forest degradation and loss of biodiversity. Among the activities to support include:

- (a) forests inventories;
- (b) afforestation and reforestation;

- (c) increasing the areas fo protected forests;
- (d) increasing the number of forests and forestation-related decent jobs; and
- (e) reducing of the annual rate of deforestation and of natural forests.

Madam Speaker, at the global state such as COP 27, we want to take maximum advantage of the unprecedented political commitment premised on the exceptional, visionary and transparent leadership of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr Hakainde Hichilema that has brought abundant good will for Zambia. Every country, Madam Speaker, rich or poor is yearning to establish a working relationship with Zambia at President and ministerial levels.

Madam Speaker, our goal is to cash in on this huge political commitment as much as we can. So, we look forward to many bilateral engagements at COP 27. I am very confident, Madam Speaker, that these engagements will yield positive results that will help us leverage financing for environmental protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation in our country.

As I conclude, Madam Speaker, I would like to encourage every hon. Member of this hon. House to take keen interest in climate change and environmental matters as these are serious matters which cater across all sectors and affect everyone without exception. Greening the Zambian economy and environment is only possible when every Zambian is involved.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.

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