



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**ZAMBIA'S POLICY STATEMENT DURING THE GENERAL POLICY DEBATE OF THE 38TH SESSION
OF GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANISATION (UNESCO)**

ZAMBIA

**NOVEMBER 5, 2015
PARIS, FRANCE**

The President of the General Conference

The Chairperson of the Executive Board

The Director- General

Honourable Government Ministers

Excellencies

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President:

Zambia congratulates you on your election as President of the 38th General Assembly of UNESCO. Zambia further congratulates UNESCO on its 70th anniversary. Zambia also celebrates fifty-one (51) years of collaborative ties with UNESCO, during which period, UNESCO has provided technical, material and financial support to Zambia in all the key competencies of UNESCO. We recognize the recent work which UNESCO has conducted with us in the area of Policy Review.

Zambia has continued to make strides in the areas of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Information and Communications and in Culture.

1. Early Childhood Education

In the area of Early Childhood Education, the Government is scaling up provision of Early Childhood Education (ECE), through the attachment of Early Childhood Education Centres to existing schools, as well as establishing Centres in the communities.

2. General Education

Zambia recognizes that a comprehensive and inclusive curriculum is fundamental to reaching learning goals. Thus Zambia is engaged in an ongoing process of curriculum reforms at all levels, coupled with the harmonization of the teacher training curricular.

3. Teacher Education and Training

Zambia wishes to express gratitude to UNESCO for support rendered in teacher development, particularly with respect to enhancing the teaching of ICT in general education. The Teaching Council of Zambia has been established to develop and maintain standards in the Teaching Profession.

4. Adult Literacy

Government is also scaling up adult literacy by targeting the marginalized including those in prisons and remote areas. The quality of our Adult Literacy programmes has been enhanced through the development of national curriculum, materials in various local languages, and training of literacy

facilitators. In addition, some educators and curriculum developers underwent training in a training programme which is co-offered by UNESCO's International Bureau of Education and the Open University of Tanzania, and Tanzania Institute of Education.

5. Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Zambia has introduced the Two-Tier Education and Training system to provide academic and vocational education pathways at Lower and Upper Secondary Education. To support this system, Zambia has also introduced a three-year Vocational Secondary Teachers Diploma programme.

In collaboration with the Government of South Korea, UNESCO has been working with Zambia on skills development through the “Better Education for Africa’s Rise – (BEAR)” project.

This cooperation brings the experience and expertise of Korea in the area of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to the TEVET system in Zambia. We look forward to the expansion of this cooperation.

Zambia has continued to support institutions offering demand driven priority skills areas through the TEVET Fund which is essentially an economic incentive-based instrument designed to influence and align TEVET service provision to the policy priorities of the Government with respect to quality, sustainability, demand responsiveness, and equity.

6. Science, Technology and Innovation

Zambia has recognized the insufficient Research and Development (R&D) infrastructure and the scarcity of scientific human resource capacity needed to harness the country’s natural resources and benefits of its indigenous knowledge so as to promote competitiveness of its industry. Therefore, the government has prioritized investment in science, technology and innovation as a critical aspect to support competitiveness of the local industry, create wealth, and improve the quality of life of the people.

My government has undertaken measures to rehabilitate and construct research infrastructure and procure state-of-the-art research equipment. Development of a critical mass of scientific staff in fields such as Energy, Water, the Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Space Science, Bio-Informatics and Bio-Technology is ongoing, and Zambia has continued to seek assistance from cooperating partners in this regard.

In its effort to mainstream science, technology and innovation, Zambia has planned to construct a Science Complex. This initiative involves participation of cooperating partners and the private sector through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

Zambia has continued on its efforts to establish the National Bioethics Committee aimed at coordinating developments in the handling of ethics, especially in the area dealing with research that involves human beings.

Zambia appreciates UNESCO's efforts to assist Zambia in the development of a National Bioethics Coordinating Committee whose role will, inter alia, include coordinating and networking the various Bioethics Committees in Zambia. In this regard, we appeal to UNESCO to continue its assistance of providing professional and technical assistance to this process.

7. Higher Education

The Higher Education sector has seen significant expansion, with increasing participation of the private sector. The Government has introduced the Higher Education Authority to provide quality assurance in the provision of University Education. In addition, the Government has also established the Zambia Qualifications Authority, whose task is to manage and develop the Zambia Qualifications Framework. These measures are aimed at providing a platform for the formal recognition, and portability, of our Higher Education Qualifications.

8. Information and Communications

In the area of Information and Communications, the Broadcasting Regulator has, since July 2013, has issued nineteen (19) Radio and Four (4) Television Licences, resulting in a total of 80 Radio and 17 Television Stations in Zambia.

Government is also bridging the information gap between the rural and urban areas by improving radio reception in the rural areas through installation of Frequency Modulation (FM) transmitters under the "Rural FM Project". The University of Zambia has also introduced a Radio Academy to promote effective writing of community news and other community media products to ensure quality information provision.

Zambia has joined the digital global village and has successfully migrated from analogue to digital terrestrial television transmission. In line with the government's mandate to provide ICTs for all, the Zambian government has embarked on a number of projects among them:

- The construction of communication towers across the country, and so far a total of 189 out of 204 towers have been constructed.
- Establishment of the first Cyber-Security Forensic Laboratory at the National Police Headquarters to create capacity among officers to enable them effectively deal with rising cyber related offenses.
- Finalizing the national child online strategy which is aimed at creating a safe cyber environment for children and youths.
- Implementation of Government-Wide Area Network (GWAN) aimed at interconnecting all Government Ministries and Agencies countrywide.

9. Culture

Zambia shares the global notion that no society can flourish without the expression and preservation of its cultural heritage. Cultural heritage validates our well-being. In this regard our country, home to about 290 ethnic groups celebrating more than 100 traditional ceremonies, is engaged in promoting the value transmission of culture in its diverse forms. This safeguards customs for future generations and promotes our national identity.

In order to enhance capacity in cultural institutions, the government has embarked on training in intangible cultural heritage and infrastructure development. This is evidenced by the ongoing construction of Cultural Villages and Art Galleries.

Further, Zambia is committed to the realization of the objectives of the World Heritage Convention. This convention must help lift the standards of life of the local community by encouraging sustainable economic activities such as promoting investment in cultural tourism which, when developed, will increase revenue and preserve tangible and intangible heritage alike for the local people.

We are cognizant of the fact that we live in a global village with global connections and interactions. Regarding this matter Zambia has maintained strong ties with other countries by signing new cultural agreements and through participation in international programmes and activities.

Mr. President, we note with sadness the pillage of cultural sites in war torn countries in the many parts of the World, and my Government joins the rest of the state parties in implementing measures aimed at giving effect the resolution 2199 of the Security Council of the United Nations in order to preserve heritage sites of outstanding value for humanity.

10. Equity, Inclusiveness, and Energy

Promotion of equity and social inclusion in and through Education has led to implementation of the Disability Policy which is strengthened by inclusive vocational training to persons with disabilities. Government is providing bursary support towards skills development to vulnerable learners.

The government is also running non formal Education and Skills Training aimed at empowering especially adults and out-of-school youths with skills and knowledge that enhance their total development through learning how to read, write and do simple arithmetic that in turn is helpful in the implementation of income generating activities. The programme has achieved a number of successes such as: revised the functional literacy curriculum and materials; and the translation of learning materials into seven major local languages. These materials have been distributed to all the Provinces.

The Government is implementing women empowerment programmes with the objective of facilitating socio-economic empowerment to women through individual and club/association activities that enhance entrepreneurship skills and income generating activities in order to enhance wealth creation. Women's Clubs and Associations are supported to grow into viable enterprises, generating incomes and contributing to up-lifting house-hold incomes.

Under the public welfare assistance scheme, government provides basic necessities to the most vulnerable in the form of food, clothing, shelter, education and health care support and repatriation among others. Government is also implementing the social cash transfer scheme which falls under the social associate pillar of the government's National Social Protection Policy. The social cash transfer scheme provides assistance in form of cash to incapacitated households who have limited self-help potential due to various economic hardships. Similarly, there is a Social Protection Fund to assist vulnerable individuals and households with capital to run business ventures or sustainable development of the community.

The Government provides correctional services to deal with children in conflict with the law. So far, the Government runs three schools to provide counseling and other casework services to the juveniles. Other policy measures include the Anti-Gender- Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011 and Anti-Human Trafficking Act No. 11 of 2008, providing for the prohibition, prevention, prosecution and protection of victims of gender-based violence and human trafficking.

In the area of energy, the Government has embarked on rural electrification. At the moment, access to electricity in rural areas is 4.3%. To increase access, the Government has set up the Rural Electrification Authority (REA) in order to speed up the electrification of rural areas. Government is also investing in renewable energy. The policy objective seeks to promote renewable energy technologies for electricity generation among others.

11. Conclusion

Zambia is committed to the continuation of the cooperation with UNESCO, and the maintenance of the values and principles which govern and guide this cooperation.

ZAMBIA – REPORT TO THE 38TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO

We look forward to successful outcomes of this 38th General Conference of UNESCO.
