

**ZAMBIA'S STATEMENT TO THE 210<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO**

**DELIVERED BY HON. DR DENNIS M. WANCHINGA, ZAMBIA'S  
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO  
AND MINISTER OF GENERAL EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF ZAMBIA**

**THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE  
THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO  
DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD  
EXCELLENCIES  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**MR. CHAIRPERSON, LET ME BEGIN BY EXPRESSING MY SINCERE  
CONDOLENCES TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE ON THE PASSING AWAY OF  
THEIR FORMER PRESIDENT, VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING. I ALSO  
OFFER MY CONDOLENCES FOLLOWING THE DEATHS OF A NUMBER  
OF OTHER GLOBAL EMINENT PERSONALITIES AS ANNOUNCED  
PRIOR TO THE MOMENT OF SILENCE YESTERDAY.**

**LET ME ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE  
CONDOLENCES TO ALL THAT LOST THEIR LOVED ONES DUE TO THE  
COVID 19 PANDEMIC. THE PANDEMIC HAS LED TO A DRAMATIC  
LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE WORLDWIDE AND PRESENTS AN  
UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE TO PUBLIC HEALTH, FOOD  
SECURITY AND THE WORLD OF WORK. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
DISRUPTION CAUSED BY THE PANDEMIC IS DEVASTATING. WE HAD**

TO CLOSE OUR WORLD HERITAGE SITE-THE VICTORIA FALLS AND ALL THE TOURISM FACILITIES AS A RESULT OF HE PANDEMIC.

**MR. CHAIRPERSON,** FIRST AND FOREMOST, ZAMBIA WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ISSUES RAISED BY ETHIOPIA IN THE STATEMENT DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

ZAMBIA FURTHER WISHES TO CONCUR WITH OTHER STATES IN OUR COLLECTIVE CONCERNS OVER THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM. IN ZAMBIA, LIKE ELSEWHERE, WE HAD TO CLOSE SCHOOLS AND ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF OUR LEARNERS WERE ACCESSING TV, RADIO, AND INTERNET EDUCATION CONTENT.

**CHAIRPERSON,** I WISH TO INFORM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD THAT SCHOOLS HAVE SINCE BEEN RE-OPENED IN MY COUNTRY BUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF COVID-19, WHICH INCLUDES LEARNERS DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL (ESPECIALLY GIRLS), WILL CERTAINLY HAVE UNTOLD NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. SERIOUS ATTENTION NEEDS TO BE PAID BY UNESCO, SUPPORTING THOSE COUNTRIES MORE DEEPLY AFFECTED BY THE VIRUS ESPECIALLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES.

**CHAIRPERSON,** ZAMBIA SUPPORTS THE PROPOSED DECISION TO RENEW THE PRIZE FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS (2021-2025) AND WISHES TO THANK UNESCO FOR CONVENING THE EXTRAORDINARY GLOBAL EDUCATION MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER, 2020 AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENTS OF GHANA, NORWAY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR CO-HOSTING THE EVENT. THIS WAS A WELL THOUGHT OUT

INITIATIVE CONSIDERING THE COVID-19, WHICH HAS EXACERBATED EDUCATION CHALLENGES. MY COUNTRY'S SINCERE HOPE IS THAT THE PRIORITY ACTIONS OUTLINED IN THE GEM DECLARATION TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG4 IN THE COVID-19 CONTEXT AND BEYOND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

**MR. CHAIRPERSON**, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECALL THAT WE ARE REMAINING WITH ONLY 10 YEARS BEFORE 2030, THE YEAR BY WHICH WE SHOULD MEET THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS. A LOT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO ACHIEVE THESE IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN THIS LIMITED TIME AND BUSINESS AS USUAL CANNOT BE AN OPTION. IT IS THEREFORE CRITICAL THAT ITEM 22 ON THE PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME AND BUDGET IS DISCUSSED VERY THOUGHTFULLY. WE COMMEND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S EFFORTS ON 41 C/4 AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A RICH DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM.

**CHAIRPERSON**, MY COUNTRY CONTINUES TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE UNESCO HARARE CLUSTER OFFICE SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2014. IN ADDITION, ZAMBIA SUPPORTS THE CALL FOR INCREASED SUPPORT TO FIELD OFFICES AND THE NEED FOR REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AS WELL AS THE CURRICULUM REFORM TO HELP ACHIEVE THE SDG 4 TARGETS.

**MR. CHAIRPERSON**, THIS EXECUTIVE BOARD OCCURS JUST ABOUT ONE MONTH AFTER THE CELEBRATION OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1970 CONVENTION ON THE MEANS OF PROHIBITING AND PREVENTING THE ILLICIT IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CULTURAL PROPERTY, ONE OF THE KEY UNESCO

CONVENTIONS. WE URGE UNESCO'S WORK IN THE RETURN AND RESTITUTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY TO BE DEEPENED AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS CONVENTION.

**MR. CHAIRPERSON,** I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK UNESCO AND ITS MEMBER STATES FOR ALLOWING ZAMBIA TO BE PART OF THE SANDSTONE HOSTED URANIUM DEPOSITS PROJECT THAT WILL RUN FOR FIVE YEARS (2020 TO 2025). IN VIEW OF THIS, ZAMBIA WILL PREPARE ADEQUATELY TO HOST THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SANDSTONE HOSTED URANIUM DEPOSITS TO BE HELD IN 2022.

**MR. CHAIRPERSON,** ZAMBIA IS HAPPY TO BE A BENEFICIARY OF THE IMPORTANT FLAGSHIP PROJECT ON IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION, AND THANKS THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR ITS GENEROUS SUPPORT AND LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH UNESCO AND OTHER MEMBER STATES TO PURSUE INITIATIVES AIMED AT SCALING UP LOCAL, REGIONAL AND WORLDWIDE COOPERATION TO COMBAT RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION AND APPEALS TO THOSE MEMBER STATES THAT CAN AFFORD TO PROVIDE EXTRA-BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO COME IN SO AS TO STRENGTHEN UNESCO'S WORK AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATIONS.

**MR. CHAIRPERSON,** LET ME END BY THANKING YOU FOR THE CONSULTATIVE APPROACH YOU FOLLOWED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS MEETING. ZAMBIA IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS AND WORK WITH OTHER MEMBER STATES AS WE EXAMINE THE DIFFERENT AGENDA ITEMS OF THIS EXECUTIVE BOARD