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**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, HON. DORA SILIYA, MP
DURING THE 41ST IFAD GOVERNING COUNCIL FROM
13TH TO 14TH FEBRUARY 2018.**

FEBRUARY 2018

ON BEHALF OF MY DELEGATION, LET ME JOIN OTHERS THAT HAVE SPOKEN BEFORE ME IN CONGRATULATING **MR. GILBERT HOUNGBO** ON HIS ELECTION AS IFAD'S SIXTH PRESIDENT. ZAMBIA WISHES YOU WELL, MR PRESIDENT, AS YOU EMBARK ON YOUR FIRST TERM AT IFAD.

CHAIRPERSON, LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU AND MEMBERS OF YOUR BUREAU UPON YOUR ELECTIONS TO GUIDE OUR PROCEEDINGS

THIS YEARS THEME “*FROM FRAGILITY TO LONG-TERM RESILIENCE: INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE RURAL ECONOMIES*” IS EXTREMELY TIMELY

HOWEVER, INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH DEVELOPMENT POLICIES DESIGNED TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND, CLIMATE CHANGE SHOULD NOT ONLY BE REGARDED IN TERMS OF THAWING OF THE NORTH POLE, BUT ALSO ITS IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY THROUGH CROP AND LIVESTOCK DISEASE.

ZAMBIA NOW, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY, ADD VALUE TO BOTH CROPS AND LIVESTOCK AGROPRODUCTS.

RECENTLY WE LAUNCHED THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (7NDP) WHICH DEPARTS FROM THE SECTORAL BASED PLANNING TO AN INTERGRATED

DEVELOPMENT APPROACH UNDER THE THEME “ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TOWARDS THE VISION 2030 WITHOUT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND”. THE GOAL OF THE 7NDP IS TO CREATE A DIVERSIFIED AND RESILIENT ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINED GROWTH AND SOCIO ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION DRIVEN, AMONG OTHERS BY AGRICULTURE, TOURISM, MANUFACTURING AND MINING.

AS PART OF THIS PLAN, WE HAVE EMBARKED ON REDUCING THE VULNERABILITIES FACING THE RURAL COMMUNITIES BY DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE IN VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS SUCH AS ENERGY, ROADS AND BULK WATER SITES IN FARM BLOCKS OR MINI AGRICULTURAL TOWNS. WE EXPECT THE LIVELIHOODS OF THESE COMMUNITIES TO BECOME MORE RESILIENT BY BEING CONNECTED TO BOTH FORWARD AND BACWARD LINKAGES IN VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS.

IN ORDER TO DELIVER ON THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS, ZAMBIA HAS AMONG OTHERS:

- DEVOLVED SOME FUNCTIONS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE CLOSER TO RURAL PEOPLE TO FACILITATE PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES;
- FACILITATING LAND ACCESS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN AND THE YOUTH THROUGH LAND REFORMS;
- PROMOTING CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

LET ME EXPRESS MY GOVERNMENT'S GRATITUDE OF IFAD'S FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF MY COUNTRY.

IN THIS REGARD, MY GOVERNMENT WISHES TO PLEDGE A TOTAL AMOUNT OF US\$ 400,000.00 TO IFAD TOWARDS THE REPLENISHMENT OF THE ELEVENTH IFAD FUND.

ONCE AGAIN, WE WISH THE NEW PRESIDENT OF IFAD SUCCESS AND REAFFIRM ZAMBIA'S GOAL TO IFAD MAIN PRINCIPAL OF DEVELOPING RURAL AREAS. WE OWE IT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS TO PRACTICE CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE.

I THANK YOU ALL!