



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES (LLDCS)**

DELIVERED AT THE

THE UNITED NATIONS OCEANS CONFERENCE

PLENARY

5TH - 9TH JUNE, 2017

New York
7th June, 2017

Mr. President,
Excellences,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the group of
Landlocked Developing Countries.

I wish to congratulate The Co-Presidents of Fiji and Sweden for convening this important conference as we build momentum towards the implementation of the SDG 14 and indeed towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs in an integrated manner. At the outset, I would like to commend you Mr. President for the timely preparations that have been made to this effect. May I also thank the Co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Portugal and Singapore to the United Nations for their leadership and hard work to the intergovernmental process leading to the Political declaration and outcome of this Conference. The process has been an open and inclusive process.

Mr. President,

The SDGs are indivisible and should be implemented in an inclusive manner and their implementation should take into consideration the interconnectedness of the people and of the planet. The implementation should also prioritise the most vulnerable so that no one will be left behind.

The group of Landlocked Developing Countries recognises that the Oceans are a common heritage to all and to the fact that maintaining sustainability and health of the Oceans is of great importance to all countries. We recognise the huge threats faced by the oceans and its resources as well as the devastating impact of unhealthy oceans. The LLDCs are experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change which is a result of the unhealthy oceans and these include El Niño, desertification and land degradation. This situation continues to negatively affect the development prospects of most LLDCs as well as their food security. We therefore welcome the fact that the Call for Action acknowledges the challenges faced by our countries in pursuit of sustainable development.

Mr. President,

The UNCLOS gives the landlocked states the right to access the oceans as well as the right to participate, on an equitable basis, in the exploitation of the surplus of the living resources. It also states that the high seas are open to all States, whether coastal or land-locked and that the sea-bed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and its resources, are the common heritage of mankind. In addition, it states that the activities in the Area are to be carried out for the benefit of the mankind as a whole irrespective of the geographical location of States.

Whilst the UNCLOS gives the LLDCs right to access as well as the right to exploit resources, these rights are still not fully realised. The LLDCs' participation in the blue economy remains quite minimal due to several reasons including: poorly developed transit and transport systems, limited resources, lack of awareness, as well as limited

access to the sea. There is therefore the need to enhance the participation of the LLDCs in the ocean-based economies as well as in the implementation of SDG 14. In a world of growing complexity and rapid advancement, certain fundamental ethical and moral principles need to be taken on board and deliberate action taken to ensure equal and fair use of these critical resources. In this regard, the importance of support through the provision of technical assistance and capacity building, as well as the provision of financial support, are necessary to integrate the LLDCs into the blue economy and enhance growth.

It is worth noting, that about 90 percent of the world trade is carried out by the sea and the extent of participation of the LLDCs in global trade is contingent on their ability to access the sea. The ease of access and freedom of transit is therefore of paramount importance for the LLDCs to integrate into the global economy and to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of action and most significantly to their achievement of sustainable development. Freedom of transit and access are also important for the LLDCs to participate in other ocean-based activities including marine research. It is therefore important to address challenges faced by the LLDCs in accessing the sea. This includes through addressing transit challenges faced by the LLDCs by providing transit infrastructure and undertaking border crossing reforms.

Mr President,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the LLDCs commitment to the implementation SDG 14 and the achievement of its targets. We will continue to engage on these issues and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development.

I thank you.