

THE PRESIDENT OF THE 10TH CONFERENCE, YOUR EXCELLENCES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

MR PRESIDENT, YOUR EXCELLENCIES AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, ON BEHALF OF THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION, AND INDEED ON MY OWN BEHALF, I JOIN MY COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE SPOKEN BEFORE ME IN EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE ON YOUR ELECTION TO PRESIDE OVER THIS IMPORTANT SESSION, AND TO FURTHER ASSURE YOU OF ZAMBIA'S SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION DURING THIS SESSION.

I ALSO WISH TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION OF THE DOCUMENTATION AND WARM RECEPTION AND FACILITIES PUT AT OUR DISPOSAL SINCE OUR ARRIVAL IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY OF ATLANTA.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR EXCELLENCIES AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, ZAMBIA IDENTIFIES HERSELF WITH AND SUPPORTS THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE AFRICAN UNION, THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY NOT ONLY TO REMIND OURSELVES OF THE REAL DANGER POSED BY CORRUPTION BUT ALSO TO APPRECIATE PROGRESS MADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AS WE MARK TWENTY YEARS OF THE EXISTENCE OF UNCAC. BY AND LARGE, THE LAST TWENTY YEARS OF UNCAC HAVE TAUGHT US THE IMPORTANCE FOR COUNTRIES TO UNITE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION.

ZAMBIA IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW IN THE SECOND CYCLE WHICH PROCESS HAS DELAYED DUE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS NOT LEAST THE OUTBREAK OF COVID 19.

MR. PRESIDENT, ZAMBIA'S UNCAC REPORT ON CHAPTERS III AND IV MADE SOME OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH REQUIRED GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT ALMOST ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN HAVE TO DATE BEEN ATTENDED TO INCLUDING THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE ABUSE OF OFFICE CLAUSE BACK INTO THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT, (THEREBY FULFILLING THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 15 OF

UNCAC). ZAMBIA HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COURT AIMED AT FAST TRACKING A RANGE OF CASES, INCLUDING ASSET RECOVERY, AMONG OTHERS.

MR PRESIDENT, IN A BID TO STRENGTHEN THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK AGAINST CORRUPTION WITH A VIEW TO CONFORM TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF UNCAC, ZAMBIA HAS IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS CONTINUED TO REFINE ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS INCLUDING OUR NATIONAL CONSTITUTION. THE CONSTITUTION OF ZAMBIA AMENDMENT NO.2 OF 2016 HAS MADE PROVISION FOR THE ENACTMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICERS DECLARATION OF ASSETS. THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT NO. 3 OF 2012 IS ALSO CURRENTLY UNDERGOING REVISION, WHICH SHALL AMONG OTHERS PROVIDE FOR LIFE STYLE AUDITS AND THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN OF ABUSE OF OFFICE TO INCLUDE ALL PUBLIC OFFICERS, STATE OFFICERS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE HOLDERS.

ZAMBIA HAS ALSO SET UP AN INTER-AGENCY TASKFORCE FOR ASSET RECOVERY WHICH HAS ENABLED PROSECUTION, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES, AMONG OTHER

AGENCIES, TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS ASSET RECOVERY. THIS HAS ALLOWED ENHANCED COOPERATION AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, PROSECUTION AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES AMONG OTHERS.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE FOLLOWING ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE FROM THE TIME ZAMBIA RATIFIED THIS CONVENTION IN 2007:

- THE PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE (PROTECTION WHISTLEBLOWER) ACT OF 2010
- FORFEITURE OF PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT, 2010
- THE PROHIBITION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT

- THE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2018
- THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT, 2018.

IN THIS ENDEAVOUR, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE THROUGH CONVICTION BASED, NON-CONVICTION BASED FORFEITURE AND CONFISCATION TO RECOVER A LOT OF ASSETS.

YOU MAY WISH TO KNOW MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THIS YEAR ALONE, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RECOVER 25 LUXURIOUS MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH WERE FORFEITED TO THE STATE. A SEARCH CONDUCTED AT

A HOUSE OF ONE OF THE SUSPECTS, RESULTED IN THE RECOVERY OF OVER US 4 MILLION IN CASH, AND ANOTHER NON-CONVICTION-BASED RECOVERY PROCESS IS UNDER WAY INVOLVING REAL ESTATES VALUED AT OVER 20 MILLION US DOLLARS.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED HIGH PREMIUM ON FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT. TO THIS END, AND IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION, THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION, IN OCTOBER 2022, ORGANIZED A SYMPOSIUM ON THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR ATTENDED BY OVER 300 INSTITUTIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS NOT ONLY INVOLVED IN THE SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES TO THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO OFFERS EMPLOYMENT TO OUR PEOPLE HENCE THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IS INVALUABLE.

ZAMBIA IS THUS FAR GRATEFUL FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM COOPERATING PARTNERS SUCH THE UK, AND THE EUROPEAN UNION,

WORLD BANK, UNODC, ICAR AND IACCC IN AREAS OF TRAINING AND ASSET RECOVERY. WE CONTINUE TO APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING THROUGH MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN OUR EFFORT TO RECOVER AND CORRECT THE ILLS OF CORRUPTION IN OUR COUNTRY.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT AS A STATE PARTY UNDER REVIEW IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE SECOND CYCLE, TO OUR REVIEWING STATES PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA AND THE CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC FOR THEIR COMMENTS AS CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT COUNTRY REPORT FOR ZAMBIA. WE THEREFORE LOOK FORWARD TO A COUNTRY VISIT TO ZAMBIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT.