Republic of Zambia

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE COMPREHENSIVE HIGH LEVEL MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

27TH TO 29TH MAY 2016,
ANTALYA, TURKEY
Mr. President,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by joining other delegates in congratulating you, Mr. President for convening the High-Level Mid Term Review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action Conference. I would also like to commend and thank the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his unwavering commitment and leadership in the fight against poverty particularly in Least Developed Countries.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the Turkey Government and indeed the people of this great country for the exceptional warm hospitality that has been accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in Antalya.

Mr. President

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Zambia as a contribution to matters pertaining to the midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA). My delegation aligns this statement with the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of LDCs.

Mr. President

The Midterm review comes at a time when we have the new Development Agenda 2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and indeed Africa Union’s Agenda 2063 which are all aimed at making this world a better place to live in thus leaving no-one behind.
The effective and successful implementation of all these initiatives calls for a well-coordinated approach through an integrated, systematic and coherent process if the desires and aspirations of these development agendas are to be achieved timely. Further, as has been said time and again, there is need to integrate these different development initiatives in our national planning frameworks. For this to be actualised, there is need to put in place mechanisms or measures that will provide a unified framework for reviewing progress not only for the implementation of the IPoA but also for the other continental and global developmental initiatives that have recently been adopted as they are all closely linked.

Mr. President,

Africa, which hosts most of the LDCs has potential to come out of this category and therefore needs support from all. What happens in Africa has a direct bearing on the development of the rest of the world. The survival of the world will depend on how we manage the great resources that are found in Africa. The Midterm Review of the IPoA offers the opportunity to find concrete solutions to how LDCs can harness this huge potential that exists for a better tomorrow.

The Secretary General’s report on the midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, has brought out issues of concern that need to be addressed in a holistic manner. Indeed, notable progress has been made, but most LDCs still have a long way to reach the goal of graduating out of LDC category. There is still extremely uneven progress and the efforts are being hampered by so many challenges including climate change, poor trade relations, poor
infrastructure and low productivity. A lot needs to be done by both the LDCs and development partners if we are to progressively and sustainably move out of this category.

Mr. President,

Zambia being both a landlocked and least developing country is puts in a precarious situation as it has to deal with both its landlocked-ness and LDC challenges. However, there is a window of hope of turning these challenges into opportunities and this Zambia considers a must do. While significant progress has been made towards graduating out of LDC category, more requires to be done and therefore genuine support is required to deal with the new and emerging challenges that are drawing the country back. Zambia as a mono-economy has been adversely affected by the commodity prices which are unfortunately not determined by the producer but by the world market. Further the energy deficits that have come about due to increased demand and climate change worsened the situation as manufacturing and other productive sectors have been adversely affected. But there is an opportunity to truly diversify the economy and that is what the Seventh National Development Plan will focus on.

Zambia, like many other LDCs, is lagging behind in technology because of the inability to cope with the ever-changing technology and technological needs. There is growing need to quickly respond and continuously adapt to the changing needs and systems through information, communication and technology (ICTs). Quick response and easy access to improved technology will play a big role in accelerating
the development process. Human capital development in all this will be key taking into account the need to support both education and health sectors.

Mr. President,

In view of the above, Zambia and indeed the rest of the LDCs call for increased investment to improve services, technology and innovation to support genuine and pro-poor growth which must be highly considered as it remains one of the key challenges delaying progress. True structural transformation will only occur when these concerns are adequately addressed hence our call for concrete proposals for increased financial and technical assistance to LDCs in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Zambia remains resolute and committed to the cause of ensuring that all LDCs move out of this category. Zambia will support every effort intended to accelerate the structural transformation for a better tomorrow.

I thank you.