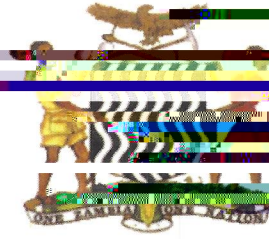


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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

Republic of Zambia

**STATEMENT BY
HON. MUSEBA FRANK TAYALI,
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS**

**AT THE 23rd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL AIRPORTS COORDINATING
COUNCIL (RACC)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SEPTEMBER 2017
Lusaka

H.E. Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zambia and Chairperson of the Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers

Your Excellency

Recent Chairperson of the UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing States, and SIDS, United Nations Development Programme

Distinguished Delegates

First and foremost, I would like to thank the UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries for the high morale for the Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing States, for successfully organizing the 60th Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries.

Chairperson

This meeting is firmly linked with an opportunity to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme for Landlocked Developing Countries and also to build momentum towards the third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries that is scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2014 this year.

It is well acknowledged that our common challenges as Landlocked Developing Countries, and our endeavours, offer an opportunity to meet our development needs and to improve our development.

Zambia, like many other LDCs, is concerned that the uncertain global economic environment, coupled with the fact that we have increased pressure on our resources, particularly in the mining and caused supply chain disruptions.

Chairperson,

It is an undeniable fact that there is an increase in shipping and trade routes, which have strained the mobility for international trade. Developing Countries to attain the Sustainable Development Programme of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Zambia being a landlocked country, faces a lot of challenges as limited connectivity, frequent delays at borders, inefficiencies related to customs procedures, border crossing, and low productivity constraints.

Further, our country has a single railway line that runs from Lusaka to both at entry ports and inland.

Despite establishing One Stop Border Posts, there is still a need to improve efficiency, streamline the use of technology, and establish non-stop borders. In addition, the need for an improvement of the existing infrastructure is still a priority. We have enhanced our participation in regional and continental development projects such as the SADC, COMESA, and the Kazungula - Livingstone rail link.

We firmly believe that the development of the business corridor is crucial in improving the economic growth of the region. We are working with our neighbouring countries to enhance the connectivity and economic integration. We are also working on the development of the regional infrastructure and trade routes.

In this regard, Zambia remains committed to working with our neighbouring countries to enhance the connectivity and economic growth, as well as to harmonize the policies, as well as to streamline the border procedures and regulations.

Chairperson,

Another key priority we need to address are the business hubs, Centers of Excellence, such as, transport and communication and doing business within the region.

It is, therefore, our hope that you will receive necessary support to actualise the Agreements for the corridors and infrastructure. Our country is willing to leverage on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to develop the modern road connectivity, with a strong focus on

Zambia, therefore, calls on the UN ODIHR to continue collaborating with other entities in the region and other international organisations such as the World Bank, International Trade Organisation, African Union, and the African Road Union. The support and collaboration with UNODC will be crucial in accelerating the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to shape the next Programme of Action which is

Chairperson,

Zambia remains committed to the objective of UNODC and looks forward to working with you and your colleagues in preparation for the Third United Nations Conference on UNODC in Doha in 2019 in our neighboring country, Botswana.

I thank you for your attention.