



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

NEW YORK, Friday, March 30, 2012 – Her Excellency Dr Mwaba P. Kasese-Bota, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations, says the United Nations (UN) Conference on Sustainable Development is crucial for the Zambian Government in shaping long-term development policy direction, poverty reduction, advancement of social equity and protection of the environment.

Ambassador Kasese-Bota, who has been attending preparatory meetings at the UN headquarters ahead of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development commonly known as Rio + 20 Conference - to be held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil from 20 to 22 June 2012, urged all development-oriented Zambians across spheres of politics, government, business, private sector, formal and informal businesses to support efforts meant to reduce poverty.

She said the Rio +20 would be ideal for Zambia to take stock of her development commitments as anchored in the past and present National Development Plans, the poverty reduction strategy documents, Vision 2030 and internationally agreed development initiatives like the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), NEPAD and Rio +10 goals.

"Rio +20 serves as a forum for political dialogue and enhancement of critical partnerships necessary for sustainable development while maintaining a balance of integration of the three pillars of sustainable development. Rio +20 is crucial for the Zambian Government as it will shape the sustainable development policy direction for the Government, together with the way policy implementation will be effected," Ambassador Kasese-Bota

"Rio + 20 goals meant to sustain the environment for future progeny may have expensive repercussions for individuals and households due to attempts to alter individual lifestyles, behaviours and source of income. It is therefore imperative that healthy debates are stimulated

across different sectors and that adequate preparedness through sensitization of the general populous on potential outcomes of the Rio +20 Conference are carried out."
However, Ambassador Kasese-Bota cautioned that the Rio +20 Conference should not be an end in itself but a fundamental confluence for transition and transformation.

"Though it is expensive, it is an extremely necessary process which takes into account green economy for sustainable development, human development and poverty reduction, while promoting sustenance of the land, open scape and the blue economies of the water systems."

The Rio + 20 Conference will discuss a number of issues that will include food security and poverty eradication, energy sources and security, sustainable development, economics/ sustainable production and consumption, technological innovation and sustainability, cities, water, oceans, decent work and migration, biodiversity and climate change.

*The main theme of the Rio +20 Conference is Sustainable Development viewed through:
(I) A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and
II) Institutional framework.*

The objective of the Rio + 20 will be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and address new and emerging challenges.

*The Conference is convened at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Governments, and other representatives, and will result in a focused political document.
The Conference marks the 20-year anniversary of the 1992 landmark United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa.*

Issued by:

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