

ZAMBIA



**Republic of Zambia**

**STATEMENT OF  
H.E. MR. NGOMA MWELWA CHIBESAKUNDA,  
AMBASSADOR  
ON BEHALF OF  
THE GROUP OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**AT THE  
THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES  
APIA, SAMOA, 1-4 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Excellencies,

I am honored to be here, on this idyllic island of Samoa and its beautiful city of Apia, on the occasion of the historic Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. It is a privilege to address you on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries.

I extend my deep appreciation to the Government of Samoa for hosting this meeting and for the generosity and gracious hospitality extended to all of us. The host Government has provided extraordinary leadership in bringing this meeting to fruition. I would also like to congratulate the Group of Small Island Developing States, as a whole, for the robust national, regional and global preparations. These preparatory processes serve as the most important building blocks for a rich and successful meeting here in Apia.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here today because we recognize that Small Island Developing States have distinct vulnerabilities and challenges, and that the difficulties they face in their pursuit of sustainable development are unique and complex. This Conference in Samoa is an opportunity to the global community to develop a well-focused action plan on matters of most concern to SIDS.

Like the SIDS, landlocked developing countries face special challenges linked to their fundamental geographic handicaps, remoteness from major international markets, inadequate transport infrastructure and high transport costs. These challenges do not only affect economic growth, but have major ramifications on social and environmental aspects of development.

This means that landlocked developing countries understand too well, development challenges facing Small Island Developing States. Our presence here in Apia, is a testimony of our solidarity and support to the global efforts to promote sustainable development and achieve lasting prosperity for the people of the SIDS.

The Apia Conference is a special and timely opportunity for us to address the specific challenges that are unique to the SIDS. In addition, this conference provides us with a rare opportunity to consider how the interests of these countries could be embedded in the Post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals. The Outcome Document has highlighted key areas that need support and we hope that the international community will support the programme despite the difficult financial landscape.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to seize this opportunity to state that with regard to landlocked developing countries, the fundamental characteristics of this group of countries continue to put them at the margins of the global economy and it is a real disadvantage on their development path. International trade is more difficult and expensive in LLDCs than in any other group.

The costs to export and import from/to LLDCs are on average more than twice the costs to export and import from/to their transit neighbors. Moreover, these costs are growing faster in LLDCs than in other groups. Delays to export and import are significantly longer in LLDCs than in other groups. From 3 to 5 November 2014, landlocked developing countries, together with transit developing countries and their development partners, including international

institutions, United Nations organizations, the private sector and the academia, will gather in Vienna Austria and assess progress made in addressing special challenges related to landlockedness.

Besides the comprehensive review of the Almaty Programme of Action, we anticipate the Vienna Conference to provide a new development roadmap that would guide landlocked developing countries in the next decade. As with this SIDS Conference, Landlocked developing countries are counting on concerted efforts at the country level, a global commitment and effective partnerships to address their special development needs and challenges in a holistic, structured and sustainable manner.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to emphasize the need for us to embed the development priorities of the SIDS in the international development agenda, including the Post-2015 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. We are convinced that this Conference will deliver an ambitious and innovative programme of action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States. Landlocked developing countries are confident that the specific actions, as called for in the Outcome Document of this Conference, would be fully implemented - in a timely manner at all levels.

Thank you for your kind attention.