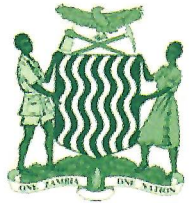




# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022  
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

*Please check against delivery*

## **NATIONAL STATEMENT BY**

**HON. DOREEN MWAMBA, MP  
MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

## **DURING THE**

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE CONVENTION ON THE  
RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)**

**HARMONIZING NATIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES  
WITH THE CRPD: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES**

New York  
13<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

**Chairperson,**

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be here today, to re-affirm Zambia's commitment to the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities through the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) in line with the key principles of the convention.

**Chairperson,**

Zambia further acknowledges that the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities is critical for progressive implementation and delivery of policies, laws and administrative measures that guide Governments decisions towards an economic, sustainable, and inclusive development agenda.

**Chairperson,**

You may wish to note that the robust drive by the Government of the Republic of Zambia seeks to enable communities, systems, and structures to combat discrimination, including harmful stereotypes, recognize diversity, promote effective participation, and overcome barriers while focusing on the well-being of all persons with disabilities. This strategy focuses on decentralization and devolution while at community level, use of individual case management as a precondition to ensure that persons with disabilities live independently is emphasized.

**Zambia has embarked on;**

- i) Encouraging economic empowerment and entrepreneurship by ensuring that the Constituency Development Funds gets decentralized down to the community level to benefit youths, women, and persons with disabilities through the formation of cooperatives including by persons with disabilities.
- ii) Enactment of the Mental Health Act No.6 of 2019, representing a positive step towards the protection of the rights of persons with mental disabilities. The recognition of legal capacity addresses one of the main concerns faced by

persons with disabilities in society. In addition, the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2012 is progressive and addresses various matters which required under the CRPD

- iii) Ensuring easy access to finance, either as grants or loans for entrepreneurship to benefit citizens including persons with disabilities; This is a strategy for livelihood support and independent living for persons with disabilities.
- iv) The Government with support from development partners has partnered with Zambia Federation of Employers to create employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the labour market, in addition to the 10% quota system on employment in the Government.

Despite the strides made so far, the State Party continues to grapple with provision of affordable assistive technologies which is critical to the effective inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities.

The State Party would therefore continue to put in place measures that promote inclusive development to ensure that the country remains in tandem with the Convention of the rights of Persons with Disabilities, Vision 2030 and the principle of **“Leaving no one behind.”**

**I thank you.**