



SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MR. RUPIAH BWEZANI BANDA,
AT
THE FAO SUMMIT
ON FOOD SECURITY IN NOVEMBER 2009
ROME, ITALY

YOUR EXCELLENCY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
SUMMIT;

YOUR HOLINESS POPE BERNEDICT XVI;

YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT AND OTHER HEADS OF
DELEGATION HERE PRESENT;

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF THE THREE ROME
BASED UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES;

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

LET ME BEGIN BY EXPRESSING MY
DELEGATION'S APPRECIATION TO THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND
AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION (FAO), DR.
JACQUES DIOUF AND THE ENTIRE FAO
PERSONEL, FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO
MEET HERE FOR THIS MOMENTOUS SUMMIT.

MR. CHAIRMAN

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS ATTAINING FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL IN THE FACE OF THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISES THAT THE WORLD EXPERIENCED RECENTLY.

MR CHAIRMAN,

FOOD SECURITY HAS AGAIN EMERGED AS A
CRITICAL ISSUE IN THE WORLD DUE TO THE
SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN FOOD AND OIL
PRICES IN THE LAST YEARS.

THE COMBINED NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISES, AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY HAVE FURTHER INCREASED THE NUMBER OF HUNGRY AND POOR PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY AFRICA. THE WORST HIT ARE THE SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, WHO LIVE IN RURAL AREAS AND MOSTLY DEPEND ON AGRICULTURE FOR THEIR LIVELIHOODS.

MR CHAIRMAN,

AGRICULTURE OFFERS ONE OF THE BEST SOLUTIONS TO THE MULTIPLE CHALLENGES OF THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS, PROFOUND CLIMATE CHANGE, SOARING ENERGY PRICES AND EXTREME POVERTY THAT WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH TODAY. AGRICULTURE CAN ENABLE US FEED OUR PEOPLE, LIFT THEM OUT OF POVERTY AND CUSHION US FROM THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECESSION.

MR. CHAIRMAN

ZAMBIA IS ALSO CONCERNED AT THE DECREASING LEVELS OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH OUR ALLOCATIONS TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ARE STILL BELOW THE AFRICAN UNION MAPUTO DECLARATION THRESHOLD, WE ARE INCREASING FUNDING TO THE SECTOR.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE UNFAIR TERMS OF TRADE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, IS WORSENING THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION OF DEVELOPING NATIONS. MAJOR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTING COUNTRIES FACE DIFFICULTIES IN EXPORTING THEIR PRODUCTS EITHER DUE TO EXPORT RESTRICTIONS OR THE IMPOSITION OF DIFFERENTIAL EXPORT TAXES APPLIED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

IN THIS REGARD, ZAMBIA IS CALLING UPON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO URGENTLY OPEN THEIR AGRICULTURAL MARKETS TO PRODUCTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO REDUCE THE TRADE DISTORTING SUBSIDIES. GREATER INTERNATIONAL MARKET ACCESS FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO INCREASE INCOMES FROM OUR CROPS, LIVESTOCK AND FISH PRODUCTS EXPORTS.

MR CHAIRMAN,

PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES THAT CAN MOVE THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR FORWARD HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICAN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CAADP) IS ONE SUCH INITIATIVE THAT CAN HELP INDIVIDUAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES ENSURE THAT ECONOMIC GROWTH IS ACHIEVED. THIS INITIATIVE SHOULD BE SUPPORTED.

MR CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTS ONE OF THE GREATEST THREATS TO FOOD SECURITY IN OUR TIME. ITS EFFECTS HAVE FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS ON NUTRITION, HEALTH AND EDUCATION, THEREBY WORSENING POVERTY LEVELS AND NEGATIVELY AFFECTING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

MY GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE, RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF SCALING UP CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE WHICH COULD SERVE THE TWIN PURPOSE OF INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND AS A MITIGATION FACTOR TO ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

MR CHAIRMAN,

MY GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGED WITH THE ASSURANCE EXPRESSED BY THE G-8 AT L'AQUILA SUMMIT HELD HERE IN ITALY IN JULY THIS YEAR TO COMMIT 20 BILLION DOLLARS OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD TO ASSIST LOCAL ENTERPRENEURS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL ENABLE AFRICAN COUNTRIES ENHANCE OUR FOOD SECURITY AS WELL AS BUILD CAPACITY TO COMPETE FAVOURABLY WITH FARMERS IN OTHER REGIONS

MR CHAIRMAN,

I WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE BY STATING THAT, IN THE WAKE OF THE MANY CRISES FACING US TODAY, ZAMBIA CALLS FOR THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY:

- INCREASED INVESTMENT IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL AND IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN PARTICULAR FROM BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY AND LINKING OF FARMERS TO MARKETS;

- **TARGETING SUPPORT TO SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS OF FOOD;**
- **IMPROVED INCENTIVE MEASURES AND SUBSIDY SCHEMES FOR PROVISION OF INPUTS ACCOMPANIED BY AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SERVICE**
- **BETTER AND FAIR TERMS OF TRADE AT BOTH REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AND INPUTS;**

- FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS THAT WILL ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE SMALL SCALE FARMERS ESPECIALLY IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;
- PROVISION OF INPUTS AT AFFORDABLE COST TO FARMERS; AND,
- PROMOTION OF IRRIGATION, ESPECIALLY FOR THE SMALL SCALE FARMERS.

IF THESE MEASURES ARE PUT IN PLACE, AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION AND BEYOND, I AM CONFIDENT THAT ZAMBIA AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL NOT ONLY ACHIEVE THE DESIRED TWIN GOALS OF RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH AND POVERTY REDUCTION, BUT ALSO ENSURE SECURITY FOR ALL.

I THANK YOU ALL AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU.