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**52ND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY
OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)**

**Statement by Zambia on Agenda Item II: Strengthening
coordinated Policy Responses to the Food Crisis-The State of Food
Security and Nutrition in the World 2024**

**21– 25th October 2024
ROME, ITALY**

Embassy of the Republic of Zambia
Rome

Chairperson,

At the outset, Zambia expresses its appreciation to FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and IFAD for the comprehensive Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Report 2024.

Chairperson,

Zambia notes that the world is still far off track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger, with the global prevalence of undernourishment persisting at nearly the same level for three consecutive years after having risen sharply in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is deeply worrying that between 713 and 757 million people may have faced hunger in 2023, and progress in nutrition remains uneven with 2.8 billion people unable to afford healthy diets and high prevalence of the double burden of malnutrition (under nutrition and over nutrition).

We further note that global tensions and conflicts, and climate shocks are among the factors contributing to the challenge of hundreds of millions of people worldwide facing hunger and billions being unable to afford a healthy diet.

Chairperson,

Currently, Zambia is facing high levels of food insecurity due to the prolonged drought caused by El nino weather phenomenon from the 2023-2024 farming season. Approximately, 6.6 million people across 84 districts urgently need food assistance, and 85 percent of the affected households rely on agriculture. The government is leading immediate humanitarian efforts through the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, which provides in-kind foods, cash based transfers, and community sales by the Food Reserve Agency. To promote resilience among

smallholder farmers, the Zambian government is providing affordable financing for mechanization and irrigation, among others.

Chairperson

The emergency due to the drought is of a scale which is clearly beyond the capacity of Zambia, we therefore extend our sincere gratitude to all stakeholders who have responded to Zambia's call for support. Your generous contributions have provided vital relief to affected communities and helped mitigate the devastating effects of the drought. However, more assistance is urgently required to address the growing needs of vulnerable populations, we continue to appeal to the international community, development partners, and humanitarian organizations to continue providing the necessary support.

Chairperson,

To address drought driven hunger, Zambia underscores sustainable agricultural practices, improved irrigation systems, mechanization, climate resilient crops, efficient water management, community education, and food security policies, which are key enablers. In addition, strengthening local markets and diversifying food sources will also enhance resilience against climate variability.

Chairperson

We emphasize the need for a standardized definition of financing for food security and nutrition in order to assess adequately the existing levels and gaps in financing for food security and nutrition.

We recognize that many low- and middle-income countries face significant constraints in accessing affordable financing flows. We

underscore the importance of innovative, inclusive and equitable solutions to scale up financing for food security and nutrition in countries with high levels of hunger and malnutrition.

There is need to increase the allocation of Official Development Assistance oriented to mobilizing private investments, through blended finance or other financial instruments. We also encourage stakeholders to enhance women's financial services as this would contribute not only to women's social and economic empowerment, but also to improving the overall livelihoods of their households and communities, including food security and nutrition outcomes.

I Thank you