



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA**

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STATEMENT BY

**THE RT. HON MADAM NELLY B K MUTTI, MP, SPEAKER OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA**

DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE ON THE TOPIC:

**GETTING TO ZERO: MOBILISING PARLIAMENTS TO ACT ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

PREPARED FOR

THE 144<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (1PU)  
AND RELATED MEETINGS, 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022, NUSA DUA,  
INDONESIA

**RESEARCH DEPARTMENT  
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**Mr President,**

Allow me to place on record my gratitude for this opportunity to share my thoughts on the topic "***Getting to Zero: Mobilising Parliaments to Act on Climate Change.***"

**Mr President,**

Allow me also to take this opportunity to wish all the women in this gathering a happy women month aimed at breaking the bias including matters of Climate Change.

**Mr President,**

Climate change has emerged as one of the world's greatest developmental challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Communities around the world, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, are experiencing the devastating and pernicious effects of climate change.

**Mr President,**

As a woman from a developing country, climate change is close to my heart. This is because I have witnessed its devastating impacts in my country, which sadly, has disproportionately affected women and girls, and worsened their socio-economic status. This, Mr President needs to be addressed urgently by all stakeholders.

**Mr President,**

While recognising several interventions at global, regional and national levels, climate change challenges and its effects remain complex. With the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, countries are urged to ensure that as plans to recover from the pandemic are on-going, it is important to embrace and adopt 'healthy and green recovery' strategies and interventions.

**Mr President,**

It is, therefore, imperative that parliaments are mobilized to spearhead ambitious climate actions, owing to their centrality by virtue of being representative institutions. Through their entrenched legislative, oversight, budget and representative functions, Parliaments with their strategic mandate can be mobilised to do the following:

**1. *Provide legislative framework on climate change***

This can be achieved by reviewing existing laws and proposing new ones, where possible, to mainstream climate change.

**2. *Influence and Monitor the implementation of climate change legislation and budgets***

Parliaments can be mobilised to provide effective oversight of national and international commitments, including government implementation of national legislation and budgets. Further, Parliament can provide effective oversight by ensuring that the legislation it enacts is sufficiently funded and implemented; and guarantee that the citizens it represents

are consulted and included in climate change decision-making processes.

**Mr President,**

Parliaments endeavour to carry out the aforementioned roles, the  
Zambian Parliament inclusive, a number of challenges were faced.  
Structural and policy issues, such as limited financial support,  
inadequate technical capacity, overlapping sectoral objectives of synergy  
between the diverse sectors and insufficient relevant information and  
data to support MPs in addressing climate change issues, are the most  
prominent challenges.

To ensure that MPs are effective in discharging their responsibilities, the  
highlighted challenges need to be addressed and capacities built in  
order for Parliaments to achieve the desired outcomes of getting to zero  
on climate change.

**Mr President,**

As people's representatives, and beyond the confines of legislation and  
oversight in Parliament, parliamentarians should be mobilised to act on  
climate change. For example, in Zambia, parliamentarians felt the need  
to address the effects of climate change at local level, in their  
constituencies, where the impacts of climate change are experienced  
directly by the people. Further, parliamentarians have sought to combat  
certain vices such as charcoal burning and deforestation, which are fast

changing rainfall patterns and worsening the impact of climate change at local level.

In this regard, parliamentarians in our Parliament established the Zambian Parliamentary Conservation Caucus, which is a cross-party voluntary grouping for parliamentarians with a mandate to work towards prioritising and building consensus on issues that affect conservation, natural resources management and climate change. As part of its milestone, in 2015, the ZPCC, in partnership with various stakeholders, that work towards climate resilient communities, such as the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), advocated for legislation on forest protection and management. The Caucus made a submission to the Parliamentary Committee on Lands, Environment and Tourism which led to the enactment of the current Forest Act No. 4 of 2015.

Further, the Zambia Parliamentary Conservation Caucus (ZPCC) participated in the revision of the Wildlife Act by partnering with the Ministry responsible for Tourism, in organising the National Parks and Wildlife Policy Workshop, where the Caucus made submissions that fed into the enactment of the current Zambia Wildlife Act No. 14 of 2015. The Act provides for, inter alia, the sustainable management and protection of wildlife, including forest ecosystems in the wake of climate change.

In addition, parliamentarians have partnered with the Government of the Republic of Zambia's Forestry Department to plant 1000 trees in their constituencies, as one of the measures to mitigate against the impact of climate change at community level.

**Mr President,**

Allow me to share with this august gathering what we as a Parliament are doing to reduce our carbon footprint at institutional level. Our Parliament works in partnership with a local recycling company called Zambezi Paper Mills to collect waste paper for recycling. Further, in 2014, our Institution collaborated with the country's main power utility, to install a mini solar plant as an alternative source of power.

**Mr President,**

Let me conclude by stating that Parliaments are at the centre of the climate change response. I, therefore, wish to call upon all parliamentarians to mobilise themselves with the intention of working closely with their citizens by consulting them and including them in climate change decision-making processes and efforts. By so doing, Parliaments will inspire strong leadership and political will towards the fight against climate change.

Let's think global but acting local in getting to zero on Climate Change.

I thank you for your attention.