

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT MR. KENNETH KONGA ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA) BONN GERMANY: 26TH TO 27TH JANUARY 2009.

THE CHAIRPERSON

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOR EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO ZAMBIA TO BE PART OF THIS FOUNDING CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (**IRENA**).

WE ARE VERY DELIGHTED AND HONOURED TO BE A FOUNDER MEMBER OF IRENA.

I ALSO WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOR SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE. MY COUNTRY SUPPORTS THE VIEW THAT **RENEWABLE ENERGY IS ONE OF THE KEY SOLUTIONS TO THE CURRENT CHALLENGES FACING THE GLOBAL ENERGY SITUATION**. INCREASING POPULATION, HIGH ENERGY PRICES, DEPLETED ENERGY RESOURCES AND GLOBAL WARMING DEMAND THAT RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY ARE RAPIDLY DEVELOPED BY OUR MEMBER COUNTRIES TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON FOSSIL FUELS AND TO SAFE GUARD OUR PLANET FROM ADVERSE CLIMATIC CHANGES.

THE TASK OF PROVIDING ENERGY IN MY COUNTRY IS SO HUGE THAT RENEWABLE ENERGY IS THE MOST SUSTAINABLE WAY THROUGH WHICH THIS BASIC NEED CAN BE PROVIDED TO OUR PEOPLE IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA IS DESIREROUS AND COMMITTED IN DEVELOPING RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY SUCH AS HYDROPOWER, BIO MASS, BIO FUELS, SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY. RENEWABLE ENERGY WILL THEREFORE PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN MY COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT PROCESS BY PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY.

ZAMBIA THEREFORE WELCOMES IRENA'S MISSION TO PROVIDE AMONG OTHER THINGS ADVICE ON REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS, POLICY ADVICE, PROMOTE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, CAPACITY BUILDING, RESEARCH AND TO FOSTER COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL AND COUNTRY NETWORKING.

THIS I BELIEVE WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN STIMULATING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ACCESS TO ENERGY. IT WILL ALSO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LOW CARBON ECONOMY WHICH WILL BENEFIT OUR ENVIRONMENT.

I WISH TO ASSURE YOU OF MY GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT TO THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE.

THANK YOU