



**INTERVENTION STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA: 54TH JOINT ADVISORY
GROUP MEETING, 25TH NOVEMBER 2020**

Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving me the floor and good morning to all the delegates connected to this meeting today. I trust that you are all keeping safe and in good health during these unprecedented times.

To start with Madam Chair, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this 54th Session of the Joint Advisory Group and for your Statement. I also wish to thank your predecessor Her Excellency, Ms. Kirsti Kauppi, the Ambassador of Finland, His Excellency Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, the Secretary General of UNCTAD and Mr Fredrick Yonov Agah, the Deputy Director General of the WTO for their remarks.

And to Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Executive Director of the International Trade Centre. Your leadership and experience especially during this very difficult period brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic will be very critical. The pandemic has greatly highlighted the weaknesses of many of our domestic and regional supply chains particularly in the LDCs. For example, the restrictions on physical movements within and across borders has negatively impacted on the operations of small businesses with many of them going out of business.

In our case, to ascertain the social-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Micro, Small, Medium and Large enterprises, the Government initiated a trade and industry survey in June this year. The Survey is being used to inform Government on the required actions to be taken to mitigate the impact of the pandemic as well as contribute towards long term economic recovery. We will share the results of the Survey with ITC and will count on your expertise and support to map out an implementation strategy targeted at mainly small businesses that are the worst hit by this pandemic both economically and socially.

With that said Madam Chair, I would like to conclude by assuring Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton and her team at the ITC of Zambia's full cooperation and support.

I also wish to thank Ms. Dorothy Tembo and her team for the great work they did during the interim period at the ITC.

I thank you.