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**STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE MR. AMBROSE
LWIJI LUFUMA, MP, AT THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AT BERLIN ON 14TH MAY 2025**

EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

AT THE ONSET, ZAMBIA EXTENDS ITS WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP IN HOSTING THIS LANDMARK 6TH PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. I FURTHER WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WONDERFUL HOSPITALITY THAT HAS BEEN ACCORDED TO ME AND MY DELEGATION SINCE WE ARRIVED IN THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF BERLIN.

EXCELLENCIES,

IT IS A PROFOUND HONOR TO ADDRESS THIS DISTINGUISHED GATHERING AT THE 2025 UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL IN BERLIN, A CITY STEEPED IN HISTORY. AS WE APPROACH THE UNITED NATIONS' 80TH ANNIVERSARY AND REFLECT ON THE PROGRESS SINCE THE LEADERS' SUMMIT, OUR PRESENCE HERE UNDERSCORES OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO MULTILATERALISM AND A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD.

SINCE 1948, THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING HAS BEEN A VITAL SYMBOL OF COLLECTIVE ACTION, PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE, MONITORING CEASEFIRES, AND SUPPORTING POLITICAL TRANSITIONS. HOWEVER, THE EVOLVING NATURE OF CONFLICT DEMANDS THAT WE ADAPT.

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EXCELLENCIES,

THE “PACT FOR THE FUTURE” REAFFIRMS PEACEKEEPING’S CRUCIAL ROLE AND CALLS FOR US TO REIMAGINE OUR EFFORTS. ACTION 21 SPECIFICALLY ENCOURAGES REFLECTION ON THE FUTURE OF UN PEACE OPERATIONS. THIS BERLIN MINISTERIAL PROVIDES A VITAL OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATIVELY CHART A COURSE TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE, AGILE, AND SAFER PEACEKEEPING.

WE MUST STRIVE FOR PEACEKEEPING CHARACTERIZED BY UNWAVERING ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE HIGHEST ETHICAL STANDARDS. ENHANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR PEACEKEEPERS IS NOT ONLY A MORAL OBLIGATION BUT A STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE. UPHOLDING HIGH STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE, CONDUCT, AND DISCIPLINE REMAINS CENTRAL TO OUR REFORM AGENDA.

EXCELLENCIES,

FURTHERMORE, WE MUST STRATEGICALLY INVEST IN UN POLICE, FULLY IMPLEMENT THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA, AND RESPONSIBLY LEVERAGE NEW TECHNOLOGIES LIKE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES TO ENHANCE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND TRANSPARENCY.

ADDRESSING THE ESCALATING CLIMATE CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON CONFLICT DYNAMICS IS ALSO A PRESSING PRIORITY. GREENER AND SAFER PEACEKEEPING IS A FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITY. EQUALLY VITAL IS OUR ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE STRATEGICALLY, COUNTER MISINFORMATION, AND FOSTER TRUST WITH THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

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EXCELLENCIES,

PEACEKEEPING CANNOT SUCCEED IN ISOLATION. WE WARMLY WELCOME AND REAFFIRM THE VALUE OF ROBUST COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AS EMPHASIZED IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2719.

EXCELLENCIES, COLLEAGUES, OUR TASK IS TO COLLABORATIVELY BUILD A PEACEKEEPING ARCHITECTURE FIT FOR BOTH THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. LET US RISE TO THIS OCCASION WITH UNITY AND DETERMINATION.

EXCELLENCIES,

AS A TESTAMENT TO OUR DEDICATION, ZAMBIA REAFFIRMS ITS PLEDGES AND IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS:

1. ONE (1) MILITARY POLICE COMPANY
2. TWO (2) PLATOONS MIXED ENGAGEMENT TEAMS
3. ONE (01) MEDIUM UTILITY HELICOPTER UNIT
4. ONE (01) AIR AMBULANCE

IN CONCLUSION, LET US HONOR THE LEGACY OF UN PEACEKEEPING BY ACTIVELY SHAPING ITS FUTURE WITH COURAGE, INNOVATION, AND AN UNWAVERING BELIEF IN A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD FOR ALL.

THANK YOU