



Statement from the Government of Zambia

Delivered by Nevelyn Willombe, Minister of Education

Madame Chairperson

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

The government in my country is relatively new and has been in office for a little over four weeks. Our pledges as a new government are consistent with some of those of the previous government as contained in our national development plan for the next five years called the sixth national development plan. In attempting to refocus on issues of quality improvement the government has been focusing on implementing specific strategies such as teacher recruitment and infrastructure development, just to mention a few.

In assuring that we are in tandem with the rest of the world we plan to undertake new reforms in two major areas which are broad based with a lot of outcomes to be achieved. We have a new policy direction the government will put in place a new policy that will ensure all school aged children are in school and are kept in school by the reintroduction of compulsory education from grades 1-12. We intend to introduce primary and secondary school education while phasing out the current basic and high school system. We intend also to have community participation in the provision of education to our children through the absorption of all community schools in the country into the mainstream of primary school education. In addition the community will be partners as the case is already in place of the construction of classroom schools and the like in the respective community areas so as to increase the aspect of access.

In order for us to achieve these above mentions the government will have to increase access by ensuring that there is increased enrollment in both primary and secondary school. In conclusion I would like to thank the Netherlands government who has been our supervising entity under the FTI for the services they have rendered to us.

