



Republic of Zambia
Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. SIAZONGO D. SIAKALENGE, DIRECTOR-INDUSTRY,
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, ON BEHALF OF HON.
DORA SILIYA, MP, DEPUTY MINISTER, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND
INDUSTRY AT THE OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE NEPAD-OECD INVESTMENT
CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2007 AT MULUNGUSH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE
AT 16:30 HRS**

November 2007

Chairperson

Minister of State Present

Prof. Firmino Mucavele, Executive Head of NEPAD

Dr. Bernard Koussi, Executive Director, APRM Secretariat

Mr. Mario Amano, Deputy Secretary General of OECD

Senior Government officials

Distinguished Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel greatly honored to grace the official closing of this important Regional Roundtable Conference.

Let me start by thanking you most sincerely for your tireless efforts made in coming up with concrete and practical recommendations to strengthening Investment Climate Assessment and Reform in NEPAD Countries at this OECD – NEPAD Africa Investment Initiative, Lusaka Roundtable.

Chairperson, I wish to thank the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Investment Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Government of the Republic of Zambia for holding successful sessions of OECD – NEPAD Africa Investment Initiative, Lusaka Roundtable whose theme was "Strengthening

Investment Climate Assessment and Reform in NEPAD Countries”.

Similarly, I wish to also again thank the Governments of Belgium, Germany, Japan and the Africa Development Bank, ICF, UNCTAD, UNECA, IFC, to mention but a few for a job well done in ensuring that this Roundtable has become a reality.

Chairperson

Distinguished Invited Guests

The purpose of the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative is to foster sustainable growth, employment creation and poverty reduction by mobilizing investment and advancing private sector development in African countries.

I am happy to note that the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative objective has been achieved by bringing together all key stakeholders to discuss, broaden and deepen their understanding of the importance of having market-based economies supported by good governance, open and transparent investment policies through evidence-based analyses and policy dialogues, sharing experiences, developing policy recommendations, tools and instruments based on best practices in Africa.

In that connection, please allow me to emphasize that this Regional Roundtable Conference has achieved its major objective of developing policy and capacity building tools that will help NEPAD countries improve the investment related content of Africa's Peer Review Process (APRM) and to support implementation of investment climate reform policies, with a specific focus on investment environment conditions conducive to attracting investment for development.

Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen

You may wish to recall that the first task of this Roundtable was to make the most of the APRM process for investment climate reform in terms of Self-Assessment, the National Programme of Action phases and the follow-up period.

The Roundtable observed that although Africa has shown an improvement in the investment climate in the recent past, the continent still faces numerous challenges especially in infrastructure such as roads, energy and water. It has further been observed that the continent remains unknown to the outside world and still receives paltry FDI standing at 2.5 percent of the total FDI annually.

It is worth-noting that linking local business people with bankable projects to prospective foreign investors was identified as a critical input in improving inflows of foreign investment and developing the local productive capacity.

Chairperson

It was worthwhile to note that the evaluation of the APRM Self Assessment questionnaire and the PFI User's toolkit yielded a lot of insights on the strengths and weaknesses of the instrument. However, it was noted that rather than supplant each other, the two documents should be seen to be complementary to each other and focus on specific investment climate issues as addressed in the PFI User's toolkit critical for measuring progress.

It was also noted that the relevance of good governance tracking as emphasized in the APRM could not be underestimated. In addition, the questionnaire was interrogated and views exchanged regarding how best to improve it's content.

Chairperson

It was learnt with regret that sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest drinking water and sanitation coverage in the world and the water and sanitation sector has received very little investment.

The level of investment needed to improve the sector is estimated to be around US \$ 20billion per annum over the next two decades.

The Roundtable observed that the situation has been caused by various factors, notably, the unfavorable regulatory environment existing in most countries. It was observed that there is need to build partnerships among Governments, the Private Sector, cooperating partners and other stakeholders in order to develop the water and sanitation sector.

Chairperson

I have no doubt in my mind that this Regional Roundtable has come up with concrete and practical guidelines, suggestions and recommendations to the tasks that were put before it.

This Roundtable has indeed provided Zambia with an opportunity to interact, share ideas and learn more from other countries' investment experiences and reform programmes

which will go a long way in improving the National Action Strategies.

In conclusion, as a way forward:

- a Chairs summary and a full report of the discussions will be prepared and sent to participants and posted on the NEPAD and OECD websites.
- In addition, synthesis briefs will be prepared capturing the key messages from the background papers, as well as the discussions in the roundtable.
- The focus for the Initiative next year will be on Private Sector Participation in Infrastructure sectors impacting on regional integration. In this regard, a regional roundtable will be held in Uganda in 2008, to build on the outcomes of the Lusaka Roundtable on Private Sector Participation in Infrastructure.
- African countries' interest in using the PFI for: self-evaluation, public-private dialogue, and measuring progress will be followed-up and the results peer-reviewed and reported.

Chairperson

Distinguished Invited Guests

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the participants for attending this important Regional Roundtable.

I have no doubt that this Regional Roundtable has provided the necessary answers on how best to strengthen the investment climate in the NEPAD member countries and I hope that all the countries will implement the right reforms according to their investment climate.

On behalf of His Excellency, Dr. Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, SC, President of the Republic of Zambia, Hon. Felix C. Mutati MP, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, the Zambian Government and indeed the people of Zambia, I wish you a safe journey back home and I hope that you enjoyed your stay.

I now declare this Regional Roundtable officially closed.

I THANK YOU