



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil on Wednesday June 20, 2012 – Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism Given Lubinda says Zambia will immensely benefit from the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

Mr Lubinda, who is in the delegation of His Excellency President Michael Sata to the conference, said the negotiations on sustainable development were successful.

“I am particularly delighted at the recognition of the fact that developing countries require additional assistance from regional and international financing mechanisms to make sure that they engage in sustainable development in their various countries,” said Mr Lubinda, on the sidelines of the Rio+20 talks going on here.

“Zambia is mobilizing a lot of resources for afforestation and it is bound to benefit from various financing mechanisms that are going to be set up as a resolute of this outcome.”

The minister said the negotiations’ resolution to establish an Intergovernmental Committee, which will be represented by 30 members from the various regions of the world, to set up the mechanisms for international mechanisms on climate change was a very novel ideal, which Zambia totally supports.

Mr Lubinda said Zambia would bid for position as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee, using the African Union as a region.

“We hope that the members of AU will give Zambia support because Zambia has a lot of lessons which others can benefit from in mitigating climate change,” the minister said.

He explained that the negotiators had agreed on the need to enhance technological transfer from developed countries to developing countries to mitigate climate change.

“I look forward to Zambia benefiting from Brazil’s immense experience in production of biofuels. Once that technology is transferred to Zambia, Zambia will reduce its dependence on fossil fuels,” Mr Lubinda said.

Mr Lubinda also held a bilateral meeting with his Brazilian counterpart Antonio Patriota during which they discussed various issues, among them air service agreements and Zambia’s request for debt write-off.

“I am very satisfied with the discussion we had on the loan that Zambia has to Brazil in the amount of US\$111 million. My Brazilian counterpart has indicated to me that his Government is willing to consider a debt write off,” the minister said.

Zambia is in need of financial resources, the minister said.

On bilateral air services agreement, the minister said Zambia was looking forward to setting up a national airline.

The objectives of the Rio+20 Conference ending on 22 June, is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges .

Issued by:

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First Secretary for Press

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

CAPTION:

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism Given Lubinda and his Brazilian counterpart Antonio Patriota during a bilateral meeting at the on-going United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Tuesday June 19, 2012. GRZ Photo I
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