# oG Zambia's Statement

Zambia became a pathfinding country in 2020. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services of Zambia has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

- **1.** By 2025, development of policy frameworks to scale up parenting and support programmes, and orientation of parents and families in selected communities.
- Operationalization of the National Child Online Protection Strategy (2020-2025): training and capacity building of 200 law enforcement officers by 2024.
- **3.** By 2025, development of a school child safeguarding policy to be rolled out to all schools of the country.







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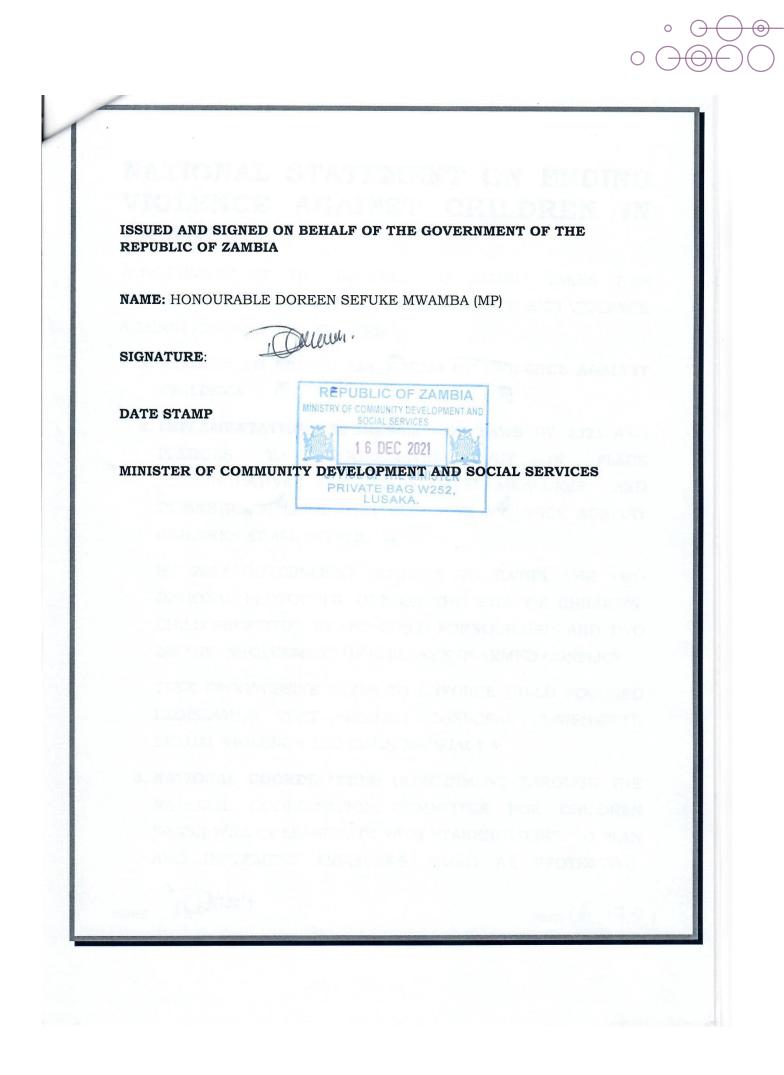
## **REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

## MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

## NATIONAL STATEMENT ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA

December, 2021

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## NATIONAL STATEMENT ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ITS COMMITMENT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. AFFIRMS TO ENDING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
- 2. IMPLEMENTATION/ENFORCEMNT OF LAWS BY 2025 AND PLEDGES TO PROGRESSIVELY PUT IN PLACE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE MEASURES; AND DOMESTICATE LAWS THAT ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AT ALL LEVELS.

BY 2022 GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO RATIFY THE TWO OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS, ONE ON THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND TWO ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT;

TAKE PROGRESSIVE STEPS TO ENFORCE CHILD FOCUSED LEGISLATION THAT PROHIBIT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD MARRIAGES;

**3. NATIONAL COORDINATION:** GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN (NCCC) WILL COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS, TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT MEASURES AIMED AT PROTECTING,

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PROMOTING AND UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF ALL CHILDREN IN LINE WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (GA resolution 44/25, 20 November 1989) AND AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN.

COMMITS TO PROVIDE AND STRENGTHEN PREVENTION, REPORTING AND RESPONDING MECHANISMS UNDER THE NATIONAL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLAN;

- 4. POSITIVE PARENTING: BY 2025, DEVELOP POLICY FRAMEWORKS TO SCALE UP PARENTING AND SUPPORT PROGRAMMES, AND ORIENT PARENTS AND FAMILIES IN SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN 116 DISTRICTS, IN POSITIVE PARENTING AND DISCIPLINE PRACTICES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING PARENTS/CAREGIVERS CAPACITIES TO USE THE SKILLS TO CURB VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN;
- 5. SOCIAL ASSISTANCE: THROUGH THE PUBLIC WELFARE ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER, GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO SCALE UP SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES TO ALL THE 116 DISTRICTS, INCLUDING STRENGTHENING SMALL SCALE GROUPS WITH START-UP CAPITAL/ GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF FAMILIES TO COUNTERACT NEGATIVE COPING STRATEGIES THAT EXPOSES CHILDREN TO VIOLENCE AND ABUSE;
- 6. CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION: THE ADVENT NEW NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (COVID 19) HAS INCREASED THE ONLINE USER COMMUNITY, THIS HAS INCREASED ONLINE VIOLENCE.

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GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO OPERATIONALIZE THE NATIONAL CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION STRATEGY (2020 – 2025) IN ORDER TO MAKE THE INTERNET SAFE FOR CHILDREN;

GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO TRAIN AND BUILD CAPACITIES FOR 200 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS BY 2024 AND PROGRESSIVELY CONTINUE TO DO THIS BY INCLUDING TEACHERS AND DUTY BEARERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN. THESE WILL BE TRAINED IN IDENTIFICATION, REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO ONLINE VIOLENCE;

7. RAISE AWARENESS: GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG CHILDREN, PARENTS/CAREGIVERS AND COMMUNITIES ON ONLINE VIOLENCE AND THEIR ROLE IN MONITORING THE USAGE OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY MATERIALS AMONG CHILDREN. AWARENESS PROGRAMMES WILL BE DONE SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE TRAINING.

GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO DEVELOP, BY 2023 AN AWARENESS PROGRAMME TO ORIENT THE PUBLIC ON LEGISLATION PROVISIONS UNDER THE CYBER SECURITY ACT, 2020, PART IX SECTION 56, 57 AND 58, WHICH ADDRESSES CHILD PROTECTION ONLINE, FOCUSING ON PROHIBITION OF PORNOGRAPHY, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND CHILD SOLICITATION;

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DEVELOP AN INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY TO RASIE AWARENSS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS;

- 8. SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT: BY 2025, GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO MAKE SCHOOLS SAFE, NON-VIOLENT AND INCLUSIVE BY DEVELOPING THE SCHOOL CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND ROLLING OUT PROGRESSIVELY TO ALL THE SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY. THIS WILL PROVIDE FOR PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND MECHANISMS FOR REPORTING AND RESPONDING THROUGH MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES SUCH AS STAFF, COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEES, SCHOOL LIAISON UNITS AND CHILDREN'S COUNCILS.
- 9. CHILD SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT: BY 2026, GOVERNMENT SHALL PROGRESSIVELY INVEST IN CHILD WELL BEING PROGRAMMES FOR ALL BY ENSURING THAT CHILDREN FROM 0-5 HAVE ACCESS TO THE BEST HEALTH AND NUTRITION AND ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. FROM AGES 6-13 ALL CHILDREN WILL HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION THAT IS EQUIPPED WITH WELL TRAINED TEACHERS AND CONDUCIVE/ACCESSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ENSURES A PROPER TEACHER-PUPIL RATIO.

ALL CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14-18 WILL HAVE ACCESS TO SECONDARY EDUCATION THAT RESPONDS BOTH TO ACADEMIC AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS. FURTHER

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INVESTMENT WILL BE IN POST-SECONDARY ACCESS TO BURSARIES/LOAN SCHEME FOR ALL CHILDREN WHO PURSUE ACADEMIC PATHS. ZAMBIA WILL ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN WILL HAVE ACCESS TO PSYCHOSOCIAL FACILITIES THAT ENSURE ADEQUATE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH.

10. EVIDENCE-BASED DATA: GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO PROMOTE RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, AND ENCOURAGE THE SAFE AND ETHICAL COLLECTION OF DATA AND EVIDENCE RELATING TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, TO INFORM NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES.

GOVERNMENT RE-AFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENTING AND EMPLOYING THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGREEMENTS, WHICH AIM AT PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND PROMOTING THEIR RIGHTS AND WELLBEING, AND WILL ENSURE THAT NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE AGREEEMENTS.

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