



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. PROF. ESTHER MUNALULA NKANDU,
AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA & COORDINATOR OF THE SOUTHERN
AFRICA REGION DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
OF AMBASSADORS ON THE OCCASION OF THE END OF TENURE OF
H.E DR. PATRICK I. GOMES SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ACP
GROUP, FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2020**

**FEBRURAY 2020
BRUSSELS**

MADAM CHAIRPERSON,

DEAN,

SECRETARY GENERAL,

INCOMING SECRETARY GENERAL,

EXCELLENCIES COLLEAGUES,

MADAM CHAIR, ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION, LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING WE FULLY ALIGN OURSELVES WITH THE SENTIMENTS YOU HAVE OUTLINED IN YOUR SPEECH.

SECRETARY GENERAL, YOUR EXCELLENCY DR. GOMES, ALLOW ME ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION TO JOIN OTHERS IN THANKING AND CONGRATULATING YOU AND YOUR TEAM FOR A JOB WELL DONE DURING YOUR TENURE OF OFFICE. YOU HAVE INDEED BEEN A GREAT TEAM TO WORK WITH, ACCESSIBLE, ACCOMMODATING, AND ALWAYS AT HAND TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE AT THE ALL ACP LEVEL, ACROSS ALL REGIONS AS WELL AS ON A BILATERAL LEVEL AS MOST OF US HERE CAN ATTEST TO.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, YOUR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK AS SECRETARY GENERAL HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY AND YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE WORK OF THE ACP GROUP LONG BEFORE YOU EVEN BECOME SG, HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF COMMENDABLE. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE AGENDA OF OUR GROUP INCLUDING, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LIMITED TO, WORK ON THE FUTURE PERSPECTIVES OF OUR GROUP, THE TRANSFORMATION EFFORTS OF THE ACP WITH ALL THE CONSEQUENT PROCESSES THAT HAVE SEEN OUR GROUP TO THIS MOMENT WITH ON THE ONE HAND, A SUMMIT LEVEL APPROVED REVISED GEORGETOWN

AGREEMENT SOON TO TAKE EFFECT AND ON THE OTHER OUR ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW AGREEMENT WITH OUR TRADITIONAL PARTNERS, THE EU.

YOUR EMPHASIS AND EFFORTS AT ENCOURAGING AND SECURING DIVERSIFIED PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE ACP GROUP, STRENGTHENING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION POST 2020 HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY COMMENDABLE. WE THANK YOU FOR WORKING EVER SO CLOSELY WITH THE COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS TO FURTHER OUR AGENDA IN TRANSFORMING OUR ECONOMIES THROUGH AMONG OTHERS PRIVATE SECTOR FOCUSED INTERVENTIONS, VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT, FINANCING, CAPACITY BUILDING, WORK ON CULTURES, EDUCATION, MOBILITY AND SECURITY AND MANY OTHER AREAS.

SUFFICE IT TO SAY, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THAT WE VALUE YOUR HIGH QUALITY SERVICE AND EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU AND YOUR TEAM. WE THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN AND WE PRAY THAT YOU HAVE MORE SUCCESS AS YOU WALK ON YOUR NEW PATH ON THE JOURNEY AHEAD.

WE WISH YOU GODSPEED.