



Republic of Zambia

EIGHTH PERIODIC REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

AND

FIRST PERIODIC REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS OF
WOMEN IN AFRICA

AND

INITIAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN
UNION CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE
OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA

(Reporting Period: 2020 - 2025)

To the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

FOREWORD

The Government of the Republic of Zambia has the honour to submit to the African Union Commission its 8th Periodic Report on the implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the first Periodic Report on the implementation of the Maputo Protocol and the initial Report of the Kampala Convention.



I wish to state that the Government is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights in order to ensure that all persons can have full and equal enjoyment of the rights stipulated in the aforementioned International Instruments.

This Report was compiled from input received from various Government Ministries and Civil Society Organisations. The submissions were received by the Ministry of Justice, the Gender Division and the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, and compiled into a Report. The preparation of this Report is appreciated as it presented to the Government the opportunity to review some of its legislative, judicial and administrative measures of implementation of the International Instruments.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the effort and hard work of all those who participated in the process of drafting the Report.



Hon. Princess Kasune, M.P
MINISTER OF JUSTICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report is divided into Chapter I and Chapter II.

Chapter I focuses on the responses to the Concluding Observations on the combined 1st to 7th Periodic Report of the Republic of Zambia under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the initial Report under the Maputo Protocol (2005-2019).



Chapter II contains Part A on the implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Part B on the implementation of the Maputo Protocol and Part C on the implementation of the Kampala Convention. The Ministry of Justice facilitated the preparation of Part A. The Gender Division under the Office of the President facilitated the preparation of Part B. The Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit under the Office of the Vice-President facilitated the preparation of Part C of the report.

This Report is a collaborative effort of stakeholders drawn from various Government ministries, statutory boards, civil society, academia and the national human rights institutions.



Mwenya Kaela Bwalya (Mrs)
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REOUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

CHAPTER I

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

I. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Article 62: Reporting obligations

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 1.1 Continue its commitment to the submission of periodic reports and strengthen its compliance with the relevant Commission guidelines in this regard

Response

The State party is committed to ensuring that the preparation, and submission of its periodic reports are timeously done in compliance with the reporting guidelines.

- 1.2 Include a part “C” on the implementation of the Kampala Convention in its next periodic review

Response

The State party takes cognisance of the observation by the Commission and has included part “C” on the implementation of the Kampala Convention.

2. Ratifications

Recommendations:

- 2.1 The Commission reiterates its recommendation to Zambia to give a concrete expression to its intention to ratify the following instruments:

2.1.1 In the African Union’s Framework:

- a) The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa
- b) The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- c) The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Right of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security
- d) The Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights

Response

The State party is consulting key stakeholders on the ratification of the instruments in line with the Ratification of International Agreements Act No. 34 of 2016.

2.1.2 In the United Nations' Framework:

- a) International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- b) Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture
- c) Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
- d) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
- e) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- f) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- g) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- h) Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- i) Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Response

Consultations are ongoing with the relevant stakeholders on the ratification of the instruments (a), (b), (f), (g) and (h) in line with the Ratification of International Agreements Act No. 34 of 2016.

With regard to (c), the State party ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty on 19th December, 2024, when the State party deposited its instruments of accession with the United Nations. The Protocol entered into force for the State party on 19th March, 2025.

With regard to (d), (e) and (i), the State party, through its National Assembly, approved the ratification of the instruments and is yet to deposit its instruments of ratification with the relevant treaty body.

With regard to the formalisation on the procedure for filing the declaration under Article 34(6) of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of the African Court, consultations are ongoing with relevant stakeholders as to whether or not the State party should file the declaration recognising the competence of the Court.

3. Article 1: legislative measures on the development of the Charter's provisions

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 3.1 Continue its efforts to upgrade its legislative framework dealing with human rights and to operationalize it

Response

The State party continues to implement its obligations to promote and protect human rights as provided for under regional and international human rights law. In its effort to respect, promote and fulfil its human rights obligations, the State party has prioritized the review of the legislative framework relating to the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, which are a prerequisite for enhancement of democracy.

- 3.2 Continue efforts to disseminate and popularize the African Charter and the Maputo Protocol

Response

The State party continues to conduct public sensitization programmes of the provisions of the Charter, and the Maputo Protocol through training, conferences, seminars and inductions. Further, consultation and validation workshops held during the preparation of periodic reports serve as a means of awareness raising of the State party's international obligations.

- 3.3 Provide adequate resources to implement the national human rights strategies and plans currently in force

Response

The State party provides resources in a progressive manner to the Human Rights Commission. The budgetary allocations from the State party to the Human Rights Commission are reflected in paragraph 8.1 of this report.

4. National human rights framework

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 4.1 Pursue its efforts to hold a successful referendum in order to amend and update the Bill of Rights (Part III of the Constitution)

Response

The State party appreciates the recommendation, and reports that it remains committed to widening the scope of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution.

- 4.2 Continue its efforts to upgrade its legislative framework dealing with human rights and to operationalize it

Response

As stated in paragraph 3.1.

- 4.3 Continue its efforts to disseminate and popularize the African Charter and the Maputo Protocol

Response

As stated in paragraph 3.2.

- 4.4 Provide adequate resources to implement the Eight National Development Plan (2022-2026)

Response

The State party wishes to report that the national budget operationalises the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) through its link to the outputs in the Plan. In this regard, the State party, through the national treasury, makes available resources to various implementing Ministries, Provinces and Agencies (MPAs) to undertake activities that meet the objectives and set goals of the 8NDP. Once the resources are made available, the MPAs budgets allocate resources that are required for any necessary amendment required to the law and existing legal framework. The total amount budgeted for in the years 2022 to 2024 for the implementation of the Eighth National Development Plan was K140,737,850,817.49. The overall amount released in the three years was K126,938,848,676.34 indicating 90% of the Budget.

5. Article 2: Non-discrimination

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 5.1 Consider adopting a comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination, in all spheres, based on sex, ethnic affiliation, descent, religion, disability, albinism, socio-economic status, HIV/AIDS status, political opinions or any status

Response

The State party notes this recommendation, and reports that it remains resolute in its efforts to enhance human rights for the well-being of all

persons without discrimination based on sex, ethnic affiliation, descent, religion, disability, albinism, socio-economic status, HIV/AIDS status, political or other opinion. In this regard, the State party has in existence a legal framework aimed at eliminating discrimination of all forms. The following laws form the legal framework, among others:

- a. the Constitution of Zambia Chapter 1 of the Laws of Zambia;
- b. the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012;
- c. the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022;
- d. the Mental Health Act No. 6 of 2019;
- e. the Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019;
- f. the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council Act No. 10 of 2002; and
- g. the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015.

- 5.2** Ensure that the derogations provided for in clauses 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Article 23 of the Constitution will not have any negative impact on combating all forms of discrimination in Zambia

Response

The State party ensures that the derogations provided for in clauses 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Article 23 of the Constitution do not have any negative impact on combating all forms of discrimination in Zambia.

- 5.3** Take measures to prevent and combat all kinds of racial discrimination against the San and Khoe peoples, especially with regards to their living conditions, economic and social environment

Response

The State party wishes to report that it does not discriminate against any persons in accessing education, housing, employment, health care and political participation and representation, including the San and Khoe peoples present in the country.

6. Article 8: Right to freedom of conscience

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 6.1** Review the National Guidance and Religious Affairs Policy of 2020 in a way to give concrete effect to Article 19 of the Zambian Constitution

Response

The State party wishes to report that the review of the National Guidance and Religious Affairs policy (2020) is underway. There is already a draft

Revised National Guidance and Religious Affairs Policy awaiting submission to Cabinet for approval.

The draft revised Policy has been purposefully aligned with Article 19 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of conscience, thought, and religion. The review process has focused on ensuring the policy gives full effect to this constitutional right.

Additionally, the draft revised policy promotes National Values and Principles as per Article 8 of the Constitution, which outlines respect for human dignity, equity, social justice, equality and non-discrimination among others. Further the revised policy aligns with other constitutional provisions such as Article 4(3) which recognises the Republic as multi-religious.

6.2 Ensure effective implementation of the national legislation relating to freedom of religion

Response

The State party ensures that legislation relating to freedom of religion is implemented without discrimination anchored on Article 19 of the Constitution, which provides robust protection of religious freedoms.

Further, the State party has adopted a consultative and inclusive approach in policy development. For instance, during the review of the National Guidance and Religious Affairs Policy, various religious groups and faith-based organisations participated in the validation process. This inclusive process underscores the commitment to pluralism, respect for religious diversity, and freedom of conscience. All religious groups are not restricted from participating in any religious activities.

In addition, Article 9(2) of the Constitution requires the President to report to the National Assembly on the progress made in the application of the national values and principles. This ensures that values relating to non-discrimination and freedom of religion are adhered to. This accountability mechanism ensures that all institutions including those of religious nature remain vigilant and transparent in upholding religious rights.

To reinforce these freedoms, Chapter XIV of the Penal Code criminalises actions that infringe on the right to religious freedom. These provisions act as legal safeguards to prevent religious intolerance and protect individuals and groups from hate speech, persecution, or discrimination based on belief or non-belief.

6.3 Ensure the registration of new religious groups in all circumstances

Response

The State party wishes to report that Section 6(2) of the Societies Act Chapter 119 of the Laws of Zambia provides for the registration of religious organisations.

6.4 Take measures to strengthen interreligious dialogue, in the absence of a Ministerial Department dedicated to this subject

Response

The State party wishes to report that despite the dissolution of the Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs, the functions of the former Ministry were placed under the Office of the Vice-President according to Gazette Notice No. 1123 of 2021. Interfaith Dialogue and Religious Affairs are some of the specific portfolio functions of the department of National Guidance and Religious Affairs. There have been efforts to continue with the facilitation of Interfaith Dialogue Platforms through Church Mother Bodies and other religious umbrella bodies as well as faith-based organizations. There has been active promotion of interreligious dialogue such as the holding of Interfaith Peace Fair.

Other measures to promote this interreligious dialogue include policy and strategic frameworks such as;

1. The draft Revised National Guidance and Religious Affairs Policy; and
2. Communication and Advocacy Strategy on National Values and Principles.

7. Article 13: Right to participate in public affairs/Government

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

7.1 Spare no effort to ensure the smooth running and transparency of forthcoming elections

Response

To ensure the smooth running and transparency of forthcoming elections, the State party has undertaken the following measures:

- a) The Electoral Commission has put in place a Roadmap for the 2026 General Elections which was disseminated to political parties, the media, and other stakeholders on 19th July, 2024, as part of the

Commission's inclusive approach to the electoral process. By sharing the Roadmap well in advance, the State party has demonstrated its dedication to ensuring both the smooth conduct and transparency of the forthcoming elections. In addition, the Commission has continued to engage stakeholders on the revisions to the Roadmap, thereby ensuring that all stakeholders remain abreast of the Commission's planned activities.

- b) The Electoral Commission of Zambia has been conducting continuous voter registration in thirty (30) districts, where registration centres have remained operational on an ongoing basis to provide all eligible citizens with the opportunity to register as voters.
- c) In addition to the ongoing registration in these centres, the Commission is scheduled to conduct a mass registration of voters, covering all 156 constituencies, prior to the 2026 General Election to further enhance accessibility and ensure that no eligible citizen is disenfranchised.
- d) The State party introduced an online voter pre-registration system to facilitate voter registration and improve accessibility. This measure aims to enhance the efficiency and transparency of voter registration for the 2026 elections.
- e) Capacity building has been undertaken by the State party in preparation for the 2026 elections. In September 2024, the State party through the Electoral Commission of Zambia, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Democracy Strengthening in Zambia Project, organised a customized BRIDGE modular workshop for 25 staff. This training aimed to enhance the capacity of staff in electoral administration, covering topics like electoral systems, election security, cyber security, voter education, stakeholder inclusion, and institutional excellence.

7.2 Ensure the full respect for freedoms of expression, assembly, association and opinion during upcoming elections

Response

To ensure the full respect for freedoms of expression, assembly, association and opinion during upcoming elections the State party has undertaken the following measures:

The State party has enacted the Access to Information Act No. 24 of 2023, which is crucial for transparency and freedom of expression. The full

operationalisation of the Human Rights Commission as the access-to-information agency is ongoing, which supports these freedoms.

The State party is in the process of reviewing the Public Order Act. The Public Order Act, in particular, has been critiqued for restricting and disrupting public gatherings, and there is an urgent call for its repeal or replacement.

Efforts are being made to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Electoral Commission of Zambia and related democratic institutions to manage electoral processes effectively with improved logistical, administrative, and procedural capabilities.

The State party will develop campaign timetables for elections at Constituency level for all political parties and independent candidates contesting the 2026 General Elections. The timetables are expected to promote equitable access to campaign opportunities and create a level playing field for all stakeholders.

- 7.3** With reference to the failure of the 2016 referendum, strengthen measures to promote the inclusion and effective participation of young people in electoral processes

Response

The State party wishes to report that the last certification of the Register of Voters was conducted on 25th February, 2025, with the overall count on the National Register of Voters standing at 7,073,513. The number of youths registered as voters in the State party as at 25th February, 2025, stood at 3,138,017 which is about 44% percent of the total number of registered voters. This number represents young people below the age of 35 years old.

The legal framework governing elections in the State party promotes youth participation in the electoral process. Citizens aged 18 and above have the constitutional right to register to vote and cast a secret ballot, with the Electoral Commission of Zambia ensuring all eligible 18-year-olds are registered before the general elections. Additionally, the Constitution of Zambia sets the minimum age for election candidacy. Under Article 153(4) a person must be at least 19 years old to be elected as a Councillor, and under Article 70(1)(b) a person must at least be 21 years old to be elected as a Member of Parliament. These provisions encourage youth participation in elections both as voters and candidates.

The State party has taken the following deliberate measures aimed at enhancing the participation of youths in the electoral process, as voters, candidates as well as political party members:

- a) engaging youths in the electoral processes through the integration of electoral content in the school curriculum to ensure young people in schools, colleges and universities are sensitized about their democratic right to vote and participate in elections throughout the entire school system integrating electoral education into the school curriculum to ensure that young people in schools, colleges, and universities are well-informed about their democratic rights and responsibilities throughout the entire education system;
- b) establishing 150 Voter Education School Clubs nationwide, providing a platform for civic engagement and facilitating youth involvement in the electoral process;
- c) organising youth conferences and various community and school-based initiatives during election periods to actively engage young people and encourage their participation; and
- d) encouraging political parties to nominate youth candidates by implementing reduced nomination fees for different electoral categories, thereby lowering barriers to entry for young aspirants.

7.4 Amend the legislation relating to the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) in order to remove candidacy fees that may affect the participation of all in electoral processes.

Response

The State party constituted the Electoral Reforms Technical Committee (ERTC) on 19th July, 2024, to undertake a comprehensive review of electoral laws. The Committee was tasked with the following core objectives:

- a. To undertake comprehensive law reform governing the electoral process to enhance the credibility of elections;
- b. To identify gaps in the legal framework requiring Constitutional and statutory amendments;
- c. To harmonise the legislative framework governing the electoral process; and
- d. To propose policy, administrative and procedural amendments for consideration by the Commission.

The ERTC provided a platform for the Electoral Commission of Zambia to conduct a holistic review of electoral legislation and administrative policies which are unclear and ambiguous to ensure legal certainty and consistency. Further in line with Section 4(3) of the Electoral Commission of Zambia Act No. 25 of 2016, the ERTC conducted countrywide consultations in all the ten (10) provinces to ensure that the electoral reforms were premised on broad-based consultation and representation of all segments of society. The final report containing electoral legal reform recommendations was submitted to the Ministry of Justice on 22nd April, 2025, for further action.

The Commission has further gone ahead to introduce lower nomination fees for women, youths and persons with disabilities in an attempt to promote their participation. On average at every level of representation, women, youths and persons with disabilities pay nomination fees at 25% lower than the usual nomination fees for an ordinary candidate.

8. Article 26: NHRI and other institutions

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 8.1** Ensure the financial independence and continue providing adequate human and financial resources to the Human Rights Commission of Zambia

Response

To ensure its financial independence and sustain the effective delivery of its mandate, the State party has continued to provide increased support to the Human Rights Commission since 2019. Specifically, its budget allocation has been rising as per Table 1.

Table 1

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Budget Allocation (K)	16,378,616	18,645,320	21,199,507	32,754,027	40,722,307	52,038, 587

In the same vein, the State party has continued to support the Commission with staffing levels as they continue to increase as per Table 2.

Table 2

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Staffing Level	57	57	57	66	76	86

The State party will endeavour to continue to support the Commission to achieve the intended human and financial resources.

- 8.2** Finalise the amendment of the Human Rights Commission Act No. 39 of 1996, in order to enhance the NHRI compliance with the Paris Principles, as recommended by the National Human Rights Commission itself

Response

The State party repealed and replaced the Human Rights Commission Act No. 39 of 1996 with the enactment of the Human Rights Commission Act No. 4 of 2024. The new Act has since expanded the mandate of the Commission, including granting the Commission powers to litigate on behalf of victims and establishing that any challenges to its recommendations can only be appealed through the High Court.

- 8.3** Involve the Human Rights Commission in the monitoring and follow-up to the regional and international human rights organs recommendations

Response

The State party reports that in 2023, it launched the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-Up, of which the Commission is a member. The Commission was instrumental in advocating for its establishment. Additionally, Section 6(1) of the Human Rights Commission Act No. 4 of 2024 mandates the Commission to “monitor the Government’s compliance with international treaty and convention obligations on human rights.” This legal obligation has formally positioned the Commission to actively oversee and assess the State’s compliance with its international human rights commitments.

- 8.4** Ensure effective independence of the Human Rights Commission members by avoiding any kind of conflicts of interests, such as their involvement in political activities

Response

To ensure the effective independence of Commission members and prevent conflicts of interest, Section 13 of the Human Rights Commission Act No. 4 of 2024 requires members to disclose any personal or political interests related to a matter before the Commission. This provision aims to prevent members from handling issues in which they have direct or indirect personal or political connections.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

9. Mandate of the working group on the death penalty and extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings and enforced disappearances in Africa

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 9.1 Support the ongoing efforts towards the adoption of a Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the abolition of the death penalty

Response

The State party appreciates the recommendation, and wishes to report that it remains committed to supporting all efforts towards the adoption of a Protocol on the abolition of the death penalty.

- 9.2 Strengthen the mandate and the role of the Police Public Complaints Commission in investigating allegations of unlawful and arbitrary killings and ensure prosecutions in this regard

Response

The State party welcomes this recommendation, and reports that it remains committed to ensuring its legislation adequately supports the mandate and role of the Police Public Complaints Commission.

- 9.3 Pursue the ongoing consultations with relevant stakeholders to make the declarations provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention for the protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, relating to personal and inter-State communications

Response

The State party notes this recommendation, and reports that it continues to consult relevant stakeholders with regard to making the declarations provided in Articles 31 and 32 of the Convention.

- 9.4 Pursue efforts in order to adopt a comprehensive law on enforced disappearances

Response

The State party has embarked on extensive consultations with various stakeholders regarding the adoption of a comprehensive national law on enforced disappearances.

- 9.5** Implement and disseminate the Commissions recently adopted Guidelines for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in Africa

Response

The State party accepts this recommendation, and reports that it remains fully committed to fulfilling its obligations to protect all persons from enforced disappearance. Further, that the State party remains resolute in ensuring that all persons are protected from deprivation of personal liberty in any form in line with the Guidelines.

10. Mandate of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 10.1** The Commission reiterates its recommendation to the GoZ to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Response

The State party is engaging stakeholders on the ratification of the Optional Protocol in line with the Ratification of International Agreements Act No.34 of 2016.

- 10.2** Fast track the enactment of the Anti-Torture Bill Process, and the amendment of the Penal Code to include provisions relating to torture

Response

The State party appreciates this recommendation and wishes to report that it is currently engaged in consultations with various stakeholders on the enactment of the Anti-Torture legislation.

- 10.3** Address the gaps between existing legislation against torture and its implementation on the ground, particularly regarding investigations, prosecutions, convictions of perpetrators and victims' rehabilitation services

Response

The State party appreciates the recommendation and affirms its commitment to ensuring that its legislation adequately addresses the investigation, prosecution, and conviction of perpetrators, as well as the provision of rehabilitation services for victims.

- 10.4** Strengthen the National Human Rights Commission resources to ensure its effective involvement in the prevention of torture

Response

To strengthen the resources of the National Human Rights Commission and ensure its effective involvement in the prevention of torture, the State party has progressively increased its human and financial resources. This provides opportunities for the Commission to improve its capacity to handle human rights issues in general, in line with the provisions of the enhanced Human Rights Commission Act No. 4 of 2024.

11. Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of detention and Policing in Africa

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 11.1** Provide in its next periodic report disaggregated and updated statistics on the prison population, as well as the occupancy rate of prisons and detention centres in the country

Response

Prisons and Correctional Occupancy Rate As At 20th July, 2025

NO	REGIONS	STATIONS	INITIAL CAPACITY	ACTUAL POPULATION
1.	WESTERN	Mongu	250	850
		Sesheke	130	169
		Kalabo	160	161
		Kaoma	80	244
		Senanga	80	166
		Nyango	50	31
			750	1621
2	EASTERN	Chipata Central	420	1687
		Petauke	80	236
		Katete	100	302
		Lundazi	120	441
		Nyimba	80	248
		Chipata Female	40	56
		Chadiza	80	153
	920	3,123		
3	MUCHINGA	Chinsali	100	340
		Isoka	130	245
		Lubambala	90	88
		Mpika	100	266
			420	960
4	SOUTHERN	Livingstone	350	725
		Choma	140	486
		Mazabuka	155	311
		Kalomo	35	228

NO	REGIONS	STATIONS	INITIAL CAPACITY	ACTUAL POPULATION
		Monze	160	474
		Namwala	45	253
		Katombora	120	180
			1005	2,657
5	N/WESTERN	Solwezi	100	430
		Kasempa	80	150
		Mwinilunga	80	102
		Zambezi	70	125
		Kabompo	70	37
		Mufumbwe	40	44
			440	888
6	CENTRAL	Maximum	400	1618
		Medium	400	670
		Mumbwa	90	494
		Mpima	80	127
		Serenje	90	181
		Nansanga	150	369
		Mkushi	60	187
		Female	53	270
		Kalonga	50	107
		Mukuyu	50	74
		Miloso	50	69
		Chitumba	160	247
		Mwomboshi	50	569
			1683	4918
7	LUAPULA	Mansa	120	598
		Samfya	45	223
		Nchelenge	20	249
		Mwense	60	189
		Kawambwa	90	165
			335	1424
8	NORTHERN	Milima Male	280	548
		Milima Female	60	27
		Mbala	60	165
		Luwingu	300	163
		Mporokoso	60	225
			760	1128
9	LUSAKA	Lusaka Central	200	1453
		Lusaka Remand	100	378
		Lusaka Female	88	148
		Mwembeshi Open	200	303
		Mwembeshi Remand	1200	1541
		Chainama Hospital	50	188
		Mwembeshi Maximum	600	1122

NO	REGIONS	STATIONS	INITIAL CAPACITY	ACTUAL POPULATION
			2438	5132
10	COPPERBELT	Kamfinsa Male	960	3746
		Kamfinsa Female	160	72
		Chingola	120	436
		Luanshya	140	521
		Mufulira	140	342
		Kansenji	140	606
		Chondwe	90	200
		Ndola Remand	95	330
		Chitwi open air facility	90	232
			1935	6483
GRAND TOTAL			10,686	28,334

DISAGGREGATED STATISTICS ON PRISON AND CORRECTIONAL POPULATION AS AT 20TH JULY, 2025

Adult Inmates

Male inmates		Female inmates	Total
Convicted	20,370	612	20,982
Remand	5,209	216	5,425
Condemned	10	-	10
Life imprisonment	705	37	742
Prohibited immigrants	514	39	553
Detained during the president's pleasure	140	04	144
Total	26,948	Total 908	
GRAND TOTAL			27,856

	Male	Female	Total
Ordered	202	03	205
Remand	333	11	344
Grand Total			549

11.2 Provide in the next periodic report information on the recruitment process of police officers

Response

The State party wishes to report that it has an established recruitment process in the Zambia Police Standing Orders. The entry requirements at constable level include:

- i. Zambian Citizenship;
- ii. Age - applicants must be between 18 and 35 years old;
- iii. Unmarried and of good character;

- iv. Physical and mental fitness
- v. No criminal record; and
- vi. Grade Twelve certificates with at least five O-level credits or better, including English, mathematics and science.

The recruitment process involves the following steps:

- i. Public adverts in print and electronic media;
- ii. Application submission at provincial Police Headquarters;
- iii. Short listing of eligible candidates;
- iv. Written and physical aptitude assessments;
- v. Medical examinations; and
- vi. Final selection and enrolment into the Police training Institution.

The Zambia Police Service is making efforts to conform to the laws of the State party on employment. The Constitution of the State party, in article 259 demands that fifty percent of each gender is nominated or appointed from the total available positions unless it is not practicable to do so. It also demands for a person having requisite qualification to discharge the functions of the office.

To demonstrate this position, in the past two recruitments, the Zambia Police Service recruited a total of 4,224 Police Officers in 2023-24, and out of these 1,813 were females. 2,411 were males. In 2021- 2022, from a total of 3,875, 1,464 were females 2,409 were males.

YEAR OF RECRUITMENT	TOTAL NO. OF RECRUITS	MALES	FEMALES	PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN
2023-2024	4,224	2,411	1,813	42.9%
2021	3,875	2,409	1,464	37.8%

The State party is making strides to achieve the recruitment threshold. However, the military training aspect is strenuous as such the number of women recruits are usually fewer than men.

The State party intends to increase the number of female recruits by making the training colleges adaptive to females with the support of stakeholders. Currently, the Zambia Police and its partners namely UNDP through the Canadian Government are constructing Barracks for females at Geoffrey Mukuma Paramilitary Training School.

- 11.3** Take measures to address the issues in relation to the lengthy pre-trial detention, inter alia, through promoting the use of alternative sentences to incarceration, and improving issuance of bond and bail

Response

The State party launched the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms in criminal cases launched by the Chief Justice. Further, it has increasingly been using the Plea Negotiations and Agreements Act No. 20 of 2010 in criminal matters, and this has helped in dealing with lengthy pre-trial detention of suspects/accused persons. Plea bargaining undertaken in the High Court leads to resolution of cases in a speedy manner because suspects/accused persons plead guilty to lesser offences or they plead guilty to the charges appearing on the Information or Charge Sheet.

The launch of mobile Courts in Lusaka, Kabwe, Ndola and Kitwe are another measure which the State party has taken. These courts sit in correctional facilities and have led to conclusion of cases and have addressed the issue of lengthy pre-trial detention. Further, the State party uses alternative sentences to incarceration like community service, probation, counselling, and fines, etc in deserving cases as a measure to address lengthy pre-trial detention.

The State party through its Enforcement Agencies, ensures that police bond is given in cases where offences are bondable. It also ensures that arrests are only effected after concluding investigations of the matter. The other measure that has been taken is the establishment of fast-track courts. These include: Road Traffic Offences, Economic and Financial Crimes, Gender-Based Violence Offences. The fast-track courts help in expediting the judicial process in GBV cases, road traffic offences and financial crimes.

In resolving lengthy pre-trial detentions, the State party has continued to implement the Coordination Communication Corporation Initiative (CCCI) amongst the key players or institutions in the criminal justice system. Through this initiative, the institutions involved check on each other and in so doing cases in which suspects have been in detention for a long time get exposed and ultimately the institution responsible is encouraged to resolve the lengthy pre-trial detention.

The Children's Code Act, under Section 58 has provisions on Diversion which enjoin the Institutions dealing with Children in conflict with the Law to deal with children in a way that ensures that children are not incarcerated.

Requirement for Subordinate Court Magistrates to inspect the Arrest and Prisoners' Property Book every 14 days for Police Stations within the jurisdiction of respective Magistrates is a measure that is in place in order to help address the issue of lengthy pre-trial detention.

Further, the State party wishes to report that it has continued to observe the rule of law in addressing issues around pre-trial detention. The police officers are encouraged to avoid arresting suspects before conducting investigations. The State party also encourages the use of alternative sentences and the use of fast-track courts to expedite

hearing of cases to avoid keeping detainees and accused persons in custody for long periods of time. The State party is also continually training police officers on the laws governing arrest and prosecution of suspects, as well as the issuance of bond and bail.

11.4 Take concrete steps to fully operationalize the National Legal Aid Policy of 2018

Response

The State party through the Legal Aid Board, has undertaken the following concrete steps to operationalise the 2018 National Legal Aid Policy in view of people's rights to fair trial, right to personal liberty and protection from arbitrary arrest as well as right to equality before the law and equal protection of the law:

- a) decentralised Legal Aid offices from 11 districts to 24 districts, and set up a deliberate plan of opening at least 5 offices per year;
- b) the Legal Aid Board has set up 8 Legal Services Units, 14 correctional legal desks, 11 police legal desks, and 69 community legal aid desks. The State party in collaboration with cooperating partners, intends to open 54 legal desks countrywide in 50 districts in partnership with civil society organisations and to enhance legal aid regulations;
- c) the State party has restructured the Legal Aid Board to increase the number of lawyers to provide legal aid services to those in need and also increased funding from 19 million to 75 million Kwacha to enhance Legal Aid Board operations. The Government has also set a plan to increase the funding levels of the Legal Aid Board to ensure that more district offices are opened;
- d) the State party has also pledged to increase the judicare funds, which they have raised already from 2 million to 3.5 million Kwacha, to enhance the representation of people without means to hire a private lawyer with special skills; and
- e) the State party approved the setting up of a Compliance and Regulations unit under the Legal Aid Board to spearhead and implement the regulations of paralegals, legal assistants, higher education law clinics and NGOs as legal aid providers in the country. A Statutory Instrument has been finalised and will be issued, in due course, to regulate this space as guided by the National Legal Aid Policy and the Legal Aid Act No.1 of 2021.

The State party is currently reviewing the 2018 Legal Aid Policy with a strategy to develop a new national Policy that will speak to the new Act and guide the operations of the legal aid space in the country to ensure that people with inadequate means and those who it is in the interest of justice to represent are covered.

In 2024, the Legal Aid Board and the Law Association of Zambia signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the pro bono framework that stipulates

that at least 1 case per year will be handled by the private lawyer to give back to the community. This strategy is expected to keep increasing the number of people that are represented to ensure that their rights are protected.

- 11.5** Support the Police Public Complaints Commission with the needed human and financial resources to ensure its independence and allow it to fulfil its mandate

Response

The State party welcomes this recommendation. Despite the cross-cutting effects of the 2023/24 drought, the State party remains committed to its efforts to increase resource allocation to the Commission.

- 11.6** Ensure the full compliance with and diffusion of the Commission's Guidelines on Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-trial Detention (the Luanda Guidelines)

Response

The State party remains committed to abiding to the Luanda Guidelines in making sure that it upholds the rule of law, non-discrimination, proportionality, necessities, and transparency and accountability. To ensure compliance with the Guidelines on arrest, police custody and pre-trial detention, the Zambia police has put in place the following measures:

- a) Encouraging police officers to avoid arresting suspects before conducting investigations.
- b) Passing administrative proclamations to police officers to avoid lengthy pre-trial detention.
- c) Training of officers to appreciate the laws governing arrest and subsequent prosecution of accused persons.
- d) Introduction of a custody officer.

- 11.7** Improve healthcare for prisoners

Response

In its continued effort to provide quality health care to inmates, the State party has, in addition to existing mini hospitals and clinics, established one clinic in Lundazi District and sick-bays at fourteen (14) correctional facilities where there is neither a hospital nor clinic. Sick-bays have been created for purposes of providing health services to sick inmates. Further, for facilities such as Correctional farms that have no health facilities and no health staff, health provision is rendered via scheduled outreach activities by health personnel.

Correctional Health Facilities

Region	Mini Hospitals	Clinics	Sick Bay
Central	Nil	09	01
Lusaka	01	06	Nil
Copperbelt	Nil	07	02
Southern	01	06	Nil
North Western	Nil	02	Nil
Northern	Nil	04	Nil
Eastern	01	03	01
Muchenga	Nil	01	02
Luapula	Nil	01	04
Western	Nil	02	04
Total	03	41	14

The State party has continued to recruit Health personnel to provide medical services to prisoners. Below are the statistics as of 20th July, 2025, for Correctional Service medical personnel.

No.	HEALTH PERSONNEL	No.
1.	Medical Doctors	05
2.	Medical Licentiates	03
3.	Clinical Officers	71
4.	Nurses	117
5.	Environmental Health Technologist	12
6.	Public Health Officers	09
7.	Pharmacists	03
8.	Pharmacist technicians	04
9.	Pharmacist Dispensers	02
10.	Laboratory Technicians	09
11.	Physiotherapists Technicians	06
12.	Dental Technicians	02
13.	Radiologists	01
14.	Nutrition Technicians	01
15.	Psychosocial Counsellors	01
16.	Total	248

11.8 Improve food provision for prisoners, in particular by increasing the food budget

Response

The State party has continued to improve the provision of food to inmates, and this can be evidenced from the increase in the budgetary allocation towards the purchase of prisoner's food as shown below.

No.	Year	Currency in Zambian Kwacha	Currency in United States Dollars
1.	2024	156,433,224.00	6,551,633.00
2.	2025	209,852,055.13	8,788,885.00

11.9 Pay particular attention to the situation of minors in conflict with the law

Response

The State party has continued to implement the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022, which requires that children in conflict with the law are completely separated from adult inmates, the State party has made strides by turning one of the Remand Prisons in Lusaka into a transit Centre for minors in conflict with the law. Further, a modern child friendly facility has been constructed in Mwembeshi to house children in conflict with law.

Minors in conflict with the law, while at reformatory school, undergo counselling, and they are provided with educational programs such as literacy, tertiary and skills training. With the support of Cooperating partners, the State party is currently working on guidelines on the treatment and management of children in conflict with law.

The guidelines, when actualised, will ensure that transit and reformatory centres are effectively managed, thereby promoting the best interest of minors in conflict with the law.

In addition, the State Party's approach is to channel children away from formal court proceedings and towards community-based solutions. The focus is on correcting behaviour and guiding children towards becoming responsible citizens. Further, the State party, through the Department of Social Welfare, under the Ministry responsible for the welfare of children, provides protective and care services for children in conflict with the law, including investigations, probation services, and representation in court.

12. Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 12.1** Fast-track the enactment of the Access to Information Bill and the establishment of an independent oversight mechanism to oversee access to information

Response

The State party enacted the Access to Information Act No. 24 of 2023. Under Section 4(1) of this Act, the Human Rights Commission was established as the institution responsible for overseeing matters related to access to information. Since the enactment of the Access to Information Act, the State party is in the process of developing guidelines, rules and regulations to effectively operationalise the law.

- 12.2** Ensure that all restrictions on freedom of expression and access to information, in particular, those provided for by Article 20(3) of the Constitution, take into account the principle of reasonable and justifiable limitations

Response

The State party takes note of the recommendation.

- 12.3** Ensure fair treatment to media and prevent abusive closure or licence withdrawal (cf The Post, June, 2015)

Response

The State party has created, within the office of the President, the Public Private Partnership Forum (PPDF). This is a mechanism through which the public sector, especially regulators, find amicable and win-win solutions to disputes, such as failure to settle tax arrears as was the case with the Post Newspaper. With this mechanism in place, it is almost certain that fair treatment of media is assured, as well as the avoidance of abusive closures or licence withdrawals of media houses.

- 12.4** Review the 1953 Defamation Act in order to update its provisions, and ensure its compliance with current international standards

Response

The State party acknowledges the recommendation and reaffirms its commitment to aligning national laws with relevant international standards through comprehensive legal reforms in line with international standards.

- 12.5** Ensure a better protection for journalists against harassment and intimidation in particular contexts, like elections

Response

To ensure better protection for journalists against harassment and intimidation, particularly during elections, the State party is guided by Paragraph 3 of the Electoral Code of Conduct, which mandates it, where reasonable and practicable, to safeguard election officers, police officers, monitors, observers, and media personnel from victimisation in the course of their duties.

In line with this mandate, the State party accredits media personnel to facilitate their access to electoral activities such as voter registration, nominations and voting. Accreditation guarantees journalists the right to attend press conferences, and election day events without intimidation or obstruction.

Further, the State party through the State Security agencies ensures full enforcement of the Electoral Code of Conduct, thereby protecting accredited media personnel from harassment or victimisation during any electoral activity.

In addition, the State party conducts training programmes for media personnel ahead of elections to strengthen their capacity in election reporting and to ensure that they are well-informed about their rights and responsibilities during the electoral process.

12.6 Strengthen the diversity of the media landscape by encouraging the private sector to launch audio-visual media

Response

The State party has put in place the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act 2002, which currently provides a legal framework for setting up broadcasting stations that use radio and television frequencies through transmitters. To diversify the media landscape and encourage the private sector to launch more audio-visual media platforms, the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act is currently under review to include internet broadcasting, also known as online broadcasting. [Ministry of Information and Media to provide more information]

12.7 Ensure fair access to public subsidies for all media, including private media

Response

To ensure fair access to public subsidies for all media, including private media, the State party wishes to report that investors in the media sector are currently enjoying a three-year duty waiver on broadcasting equipment that they import into the State party for their use to set up or expand their broadcasting services.

12.8 Strengthen citizens equitable access to internet, access to information and freedom of expression on the internet

Response

The State party has increased the number of communication towers to expand internet reach. The State party has also attracted new investments in internet provision, with some sites like Intercity Terminus being provided with free Wi-Fi access.

The State party has enacted the Access to Information Act No. 24 of 2023, which encourages proactive publishing of public information using electronic means, to make the information accessible to the general public.

13. Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on Reprisals in Africa

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 13.1** Fast track the Non-Governmental Organisations Act amendment, in accordance with the African Commission's Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa

Response

The State party acknowledges, with appreciation, the recommendation to fast-track the amendment of the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, in line with the Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa. The State party wishes to report that it remains fully committed to undertaking this important reform. While the review process has not yet commenced, preparatory steps are being taken to lay the foundation for a broad-based and inclusive consultative process.

- 13.2** Consider switching to a declaratory system, with regards to the establishment of associations

Response

The State party appreciates the recommendation to consider adopting a declaratory system for the establishment of associations, and wishes to report that the current legal framework requires formal registration of associations. However, the State party will take this recommendation into account in the context of ongoing legal and policy reforms.

- 13.3** Expedite the amendment of the Public Order Act (Chapter 113 of the Laws of Zambia), in order to strengthen the freedom of assembly

Response

The State party takes note of the recommendation to expedite the amendment of the Public Order Act Chapter 113 of the Laws of Zambia, in order to strengthen the enjoyment of the right to freedom of assembly and wishes to report that concrete measures have already been undertaken, which include, a comprehensive review of the Public Order Act. This has been initiated through a consultative process involving key stakeholders and developed a Public Gatherings Bill, 2025.

- 13.4** Ensure that the imperative of preserving public safety is used as a necessary and reasonable limitation of freedoms of association and assembly

Response

The State party remains resolute to ensure that the imperative of preserving public safety acts as a necessary and reasonable limitation on the freedoms of association and assembly. Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of assembly and association, but explicitly allows limitations when such restrictions are reasonably required in the interests of public safety, public order, public health, or morality, or for protecting the rights and freedoms of others. Further, the Preservation of Public Security Act, Chapter 112 of the Laws of Zambia also empowers authorities to regulate or prohibit assemblies and other activities to secure public security, which includes the safety of persons and property and the maintenance of public order. In addition, the ongoing review of the Public Order Act is aiming at a legal framework that will strengthen freedom of assembly while maintaining public order and safety.

- 13.5** Take measures to strengthen the protection of human rights defenders, including through considering the adoption of a specific law dedicated to this question

Response

The State party has continued to protect Human Rights Defenders, Journalists and other activists without discrimination and is working with the Human Rights Defenders Network and Civil Society Organisations to develop legislation for human rights defenders.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

14. Mandate of the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 14.1** Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Response

The State party appreciates the recommendation and wishes to report that consultations are on-going on the ratification of the Optional Protocol in line with the Ratification of International Agreements Act, 2016.

- 14.2** Include justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in future attempts to amend the Constitution (The Bill of Rights)

Response

The State party appreciates the recommendation. The State party remains committed to widening the scope of the Bill of Rights to include economic, social and cultural rights.

15. Article 14: Right to Property/Right to housing

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 15.1** Implement the National Housing Policy, and the 2021 National Land Policy, with a particular focus on promoting non-discrimination and access to social housing for the most vulnerable

Response

In an effort to combat discriminatory customary practices and provide access to social housing, the State party is implementing the National Housing Programme Concept which guides the systemic delivery of decent and affordable housing across the country, thereby prioritising vulnerable groups and rural communities. To fully operationalise the National Lands Policy of 2021, a review of various laws related to land management will be carried out to enhance equitable access to land. These efforts aim to improve productivity across the country and promote fairness in the distribution of productive resources.

- 15.2** Combat discriminatory practices inspired by customary laws that affect the full enjoyment of the right to property

Response

The State party acknowledges the recommendation and reaffirms its commitment to combating discriminatory practices rooted in customary law that hinder the enjoyment of property rights.

To this end, The State party has undertaken a number of measures, including the enactment of the Intestate Succession Act to protect widows and children from discriminatory inheritance practices, and the adoption of the National Land Policy of 2021, which promotes equitable access to land and provides for mandatory allocation to women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The Constitution of the State party, further strengthens protection by providing that customary law is only valid to the extent that it is consistent with constitutional guarantees of equality and property rights.

16. Article 15: Right to work under equitable conditions

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

16.1 Continue its efforts to combat child labour and forced labour.

Response

The State party, through its national legislation, continues to implement a comprehensive legal framework aimed at prohibiting and combating child labour and forced labour. This includes the Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019, Penal Code and the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022, all of which are intended to reduce child labour and ensure the maximum protection of children.

The Employment Code Act prohibits the employment of persons under the age of 15 years and strengthens the State party's resolve and commitment to the elimination of all forms of child labour. The Children's Code Act provides a comprehensive legal framework to govern matters affecting children and aligns with the Employment Code Act in explicitly prohibiting child labour and other forms of worst labour. The Penal Code Act, on the other hand, outlines penalties for specific offenses, including those related to forced labour.

The State party has also shown commitment to end child labour by ratifying and domesticating the ILO Conventions No. 138 and 182, as well as other relevant conventions that set age standards for children's admission to work on the basis of occupation.

In terms of policy frameworks, the State party is implementing the National Child Labour Policy which provides the overarching framework for child labour programmes in the country in addition to the National Employment and Labour Market Policy, the Child Welfare Policy and National Youth Policy.

Further, the State party developed the National Action Plan II (NAP II) 2020-2025 on Worst Forms of Child Labour designed for use in the prevention and responses to Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in Zambia. The NAP II is aimed at strengthening prevention efforts and responses to WFCL by addressing socioeconomic issues at the households' and community levels, as well as in institutions and enterprises.

The State party is also in the process of developing the third National Action Plan on Child Labour (NAP II) covering the period 2026-2031.

In addition, the State party continues to monitor, manage and control the incidences of child labour in the country through child labour inspections conducted countrywide. This includes through the District Child Labour Committees (DCLCs) and the Community Child Labour Committees (CCLCs) which play an important oversight role on child labour. Further, child labour statistics are collected through Labour Force Surveys designed to incorporate a wide range of information about various aspects of child work and child labour in the country which provides information for decision making.

The State party is also implementing the Free Education Policy which is intended to reduce child labour by making education more accessible and affordable for all its citizens. The Policy aims to eliminate financial barriers to education, thus decreasing the incentive for children to engage in labour for financial support.

The State party, in collaboration with partners such as ILO, carries out various activities to eliminate child labour. These include: promoting child development through the provision of education and other training alternatives for children, removal of children from certain forms of labour, rehabilitation of victims of child labour through counselling as well as provision of basic necessities of life.

- 16.2** Enhance employment, in particular for vulnerable categories, within the County's wide development project: "Zambia 2030".

Response

In effort to enhance employment for the vulnerable categories, which include Youth, Women, Informal Sector Workers and Persons with Disabilities within the country's wide development project; "Zambia 2030" the Industrial and Labour Relations Act, Chapter 269 of the Laws of Zambia and the Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019, provide for the rights of workers including redress through the Industrial Relations Court. All Zambians have the right to form and join independent unions, conduct legal strikes, and bargain collectively, except for defence and security and certain other categories of workers.

The Employment Code Act provides for, among others, the protection of wages of employees and welfare of employees. Section 5(4) of the Act provides that an employer shall pay an employee equal wage for work of equal value. The Employment Code Act also provides for Minimum wages and Conditions of Employment for non-unionized workers to reduce vulnerability.

Vision 2030 and the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) also provide for employment creation as one of the national central goals through which the State party aspires to deliver a prosperous middle-income economy that offers decent employment opportunities for the people of Zambia by harnessing opportunities for economic diversification and growth, targeting key growth sectors.

With regard to social security, the State party has undertaken pension reforms aimed at establishing a comprehensive and responsive social protection system that would:

- i. adequately address the plight of women, youths, retirees and persons with disabilities;
- ii. address the long-term financial sustainability of the social security system; and
- iii. create a three-tier pension system.

In order to provide policy direction in the provision of occupational safety and health services in the country, the State party developed the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy which aims to promote and enforce OSH standards at workplaces, ensuring a safe and healthy working environment. The Policy mainstreams occupational safety and health in all sectors and reinforces the promotion of decent work in the country. It is based on international occupational safety and health standards and global best practices to reduce the incidences of work-related accidents and diseases.

16.3 Pursue its efforts to address Gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment at the workplace.

Response

In the quest to address gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace, the State party through the Employment Code Act, mandates employers to promote equal opportunity in employment and eliminate discrimination within their undertakings.

Section 5 of the Act, prohibits an employer from discriminating directly or indirectly, against an employee or prospective employee in any employment policy or practice. This includes discrimination based on the grounds of colour, nationality, tribe or place of origin, language, race, social origin, religion, belief,

conscience, political or other opinion, sex, gender, pregnancy, marital status, ethnicity, family responsibility, disability, status, health, culture or economic grounds. The prohibition applies to all aspects of employment, including recruitment, training, promotion, terms and conditions of employment, termination, and any other matters arising out of the employment relationship.

Section 95(1), further, mandates employers to develop employment policies on harassment in the workforce. The policies require clearly defining harassment, providing reporting procedures, and outlining the consequences of engaging in harassment. The policies are expected to also address various forms of harassment, including those based on protected characteristics like race, gender, or disability.

The State party recently ratified the ILO Convention No. 190 and its Recommendation No. 206 on eliminating violence and harassment in the workplace. The Convention is aimed at eliminating violence and harassment in the workplace. The ratification of Convention 190 brings numerous benefits, including improved workplace safety and well-being, reduced violence and harassment, enhanced protection for workers, increased accountability for employers, better compliance with international labour standards and increased productivity.

Ratification of the Convention 190 will also pave the way for the State party to formulate and implement policies on violence and harassment in the world of work. It will enable the State party to establish a common framework to prevent harassment based on an inclusive, integrated and gender responsive approach as well as strengthen national laws, policies and programmes.

16.4 Address informal employment, in order to guarantee workers' rights and minimum standards of work conditions.

Response

To address informal employment and guarantee workers' rights and minimum standards of work conditions, the State party has taken the following measures:

- a) encouraged informal workers to formalize their businesses or employment through registration, licensing, and the provision of tax incentives;
- b) continuous extension of social protection programs, such as health insurance, pension schemes, and unemployment benefits, to informal workers;
- c) labour law reforms through the issuance of various statutory instruments to cover informal workers, ensuring minimum wage, safe working conditions, and protection from exploitation;
- d) provide training and capacity-building programs for informal workers to enhance their skills and productivity;

- e) provide access to finance and credit facilities for informal workers to help them formalise and grow their businesses;
- f) support worker organisations and trade unions to represent and advocate for informal workers' rights;
- g) strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with labour laws and regulations in the informal sector; and
- h) raise public awareness about the importance of formalising employment and protecting workers' rights through radio/television programmes and social platforms.

The State party believes that the implementation of these measures will ensure that informal workers enjoy decent work conditions, social protection, and respect for their rights.

17. Article 16: Right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 17.1 Continue efforts to bring the budget allocated to the health sector in line with the standards required by the 2001 Abuja Declaration (15% of the annual state budget).

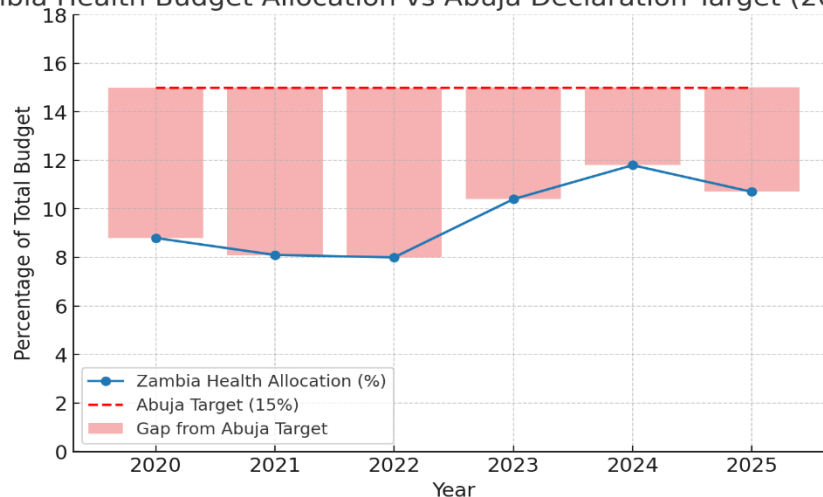
Response

The State party ensures that specific measures and interventions are taken to ensure that its health care system is strengthened and that the population has access to cost-effective, efficient, and affordable health care services. The State party has been steadily increasing the budget allocation to the health sector to meet the Abuja Declaration of 15%. The Health Sector budget allocation has been steadily increasing from 8.8% in 2020, to 11.8% in 2024, as highlighted in the table below.

Table 1: Health Budget Allocation vs Abuja Declaration Target

Year	Health Allocation (ZMW Billion)	% of Total Budget	Gap from Abuja Target (pp)
2020	9.37	8.8%	-6.2
2021	9.73	8.1%	-6.9
2022	13.91	8.0%	-7.0
2023	17.39	10.4%	-4.6
2024	20.91	11.8%	-3.2
2025	23.17	10.7%	-4.3

Zambia Health Budget Allocation vs Abuja Declaration Target (2020–2025)



17.2 Pursue efforts to strengthen the population's access to health facilities and increase the level of use of health services, in line with international standards

Response

The State party is committed to ensuring that its population has access to health facilities and maximise its utilization. The State party's health sector is currently guided by the National Health Strategic Plan (NHSP) 2022–2026. This plan is aligned with the State party's vision 2030 and the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP), aiming to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the health-related targets of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3): "Good health and well-being for all". Building upon the advancements achieved in 2023, the State party's strategic focus for the next five years prioritises five key areas:

1. *Strengthening Public Health*: the State party will continue to invest in public health interventions designed to prevent and control infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS, while also addressing the growing burden of non-communicable diseases.
2. *Increasing Access to Quality Healthcare*: decentralisation of primary healthcare services to local authorities will be a cornerstone of this strategy. This approach aims to ensure improved service delivery and accessibility for all Zambians. Additionally, the State party will enhance mental health services and strengthen epidemic preparedness and control measures.
3. *Promoting Non-State Actor Participation*: collaboration with the private sector and cooperating partners will be crucial in achieving goals. We will work towards creating an environment that fosters greater participation in healthcare delivery.

4. *Strengthening Integrated Health Systems:* a robust and efficient health information system is essential for informed decision-making. We will continue to invest in this area to improve data collection and analysis, leading to better decision-making and resource allocation.
5. *Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition:* recognising the link between nutrition and health, the ministry will scale up interventions aimed at reducing malnutrition, promoting healthy feeding practices, and supporting micronutrient fortification and supplementation programs

The State party has also doubled the efforts to increase the number of health facilities. In 2024, the State party constructed twelve (12) mini-Hospitals out of the 16 planned for the year, and commenced construction of two (2) cancer treatment centres in Ndola and Livingstone. The State party has, further, constructed sixty-two (62) Maternity annexes. Furthermore, the State party has opened up mental health service points in provincial, district, and general hospitals. Capacity building for midwives and obstetricians in Emergency Obstetric training to promote lifesaving to both mother and baby is being undertaken. In addition, 473 primary health care workers have undergone capacity building in mental health. The State party has, at the moment, a total of about 1,170 mental health workers.

The State party has introduced advanced programs for Master's and Bachelor of Science degrees in Psychiatry and Mental Health (Clinical medicine and Psychiatric nursing).

17.3 Redouble efforts to address the high maternal and infant mortality rates in the country

Response

To increase the efficiency and expertise of the care services to reduce maternal deaths, in addition to the increase in maternity annexes, the State party has continued to double its efforts to address the high maternal and infant mortality rates. Some measures employed include: 350 midwives in 2024, were recruited, and the training of 650 midwives in 2025, has been prioritised. Maternity life-saving equipment, delivery beds, and resuscitaires have been procured. Antenatal Care (ANC) visits within the first trimester have seen a slight improvement from 33.9% in 2021, to 38.1% in 2024, with a projected 40.38% by 2026.

Initiatives like ANC normative guidance, IEC materials, and communication strategies are fully implemented, while others, such as capacity building, marginalised group inclusion, and training are less comprehensive, achieving moderate implementation progress. Postnatal Care (PNC) attendance within 48

hours of delivery has improved from 53.3% in 2021, to 63.8% in 2024, with projections slightly surpassing the 60% target by 2026. Some initiatives, like supervision and expanded IEC materials, are fully being implemented, while others, such as transport provision and Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) training efforts toward achieving 100% functional Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) facilities by 2026, are progressing, but remain partially implemented. Capacity building for health providers and scaling up of service sites are at 41-60% completion, with some progress in leadership strengthening, supervision, and commodity supply chains. Ambulance services are also partially implemented, with some services in place at key locations.

The State party has made progress in reproductive and maternal health but remains off-track in achieving the 2026 targets. Maternal mortality has declined but at a slower pace, requiring a 64% acceleration in efforts to reach the target of 100 per 100,000 live births. The State party's strategic goal under the Ministry of Health's Strategic Plan focuses on reducing maternal mortality from 278/100,000 in 2021, to less than 100/100,000 live births by 2026.

Area	Progress / Status	2021	2024	2026 Target
ANC visits (within 1st trimester)	Increased attendance	33.9%	38.1%	40.38%
PNC attendance (within 48 hours)	Improved attendance	53.3%	63.8%	>60%
Maternal mortality rate	Declined	278/100,000 live births	195/100,000 live births	<100/100,000 live birth

18. Article 17: Right to Education

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 18.1** Continue its efforts to ensure equal access to education for all, especially in remote and rural regions, and for the vulnerable categories.

Response

The State party remains resolute in its efforts to ensure equal access to education for all, especially in remote and rural regions. These efforts include the following:

The State party has in place the 2024-2029 Partnership Compact which is an education reform aimed to increase access to education and improve quality, especially targeting children under 10 years (both girls and boys), rural and urban, including those with disabilities. This reform links to Zambia's 2022-2026 Education Strategic Plan and National Vision 2030.

In 2023, the State party extended the Education for All policy to cover early childhood and secondary education, constructing 120 new secondary schools aimed particularly at underserved rural areas. Projects like the Zambia Education Enhancement Project (ZEEP) are constructing schools and teacher houses to improve infrastructure in rural communities.

Early childhood development is being prioritized with the establishment of hundreds of early childhood education centers nationwide, supported by programs like the Zambia Enhancing Early Learning (ZEEL) project.

The State party continues to implement inclusive education programs to address barriers faced by vulnerable groups. Programs such as Keeping Girls in School tackle challenges specific to girls in rural areas like long distances to schools, early marriage, menstrual hygiene, and pregnancies. Bursary schemes and grants have been expanded for vulnerable secondary school learners, identified through constituency development funds.

Further, a significant focus has been placed on literacy through the Primary Literacy Programme and the Catch Up (Teaching at the Right Level) program, which have scaled nationally to improve reading and numeracy, critical for educational equity.

The State party also increased budget allocations to education (from 13.9% in 2023 to 15.4% in 2024), increased support for higher education loans and scholarships for vulnerable communities, and worked on improving internet connectivity in rural areas to enhance digital learning access.

Further, in an effort to ensure that children are kept in school and have access to school meals, the State party is implementing the Home-Grown School Meals programme which provides daily meals to learners to improve attendance and academic performance. Through this programme, the State party enhances human development and contributes to reducing poverty and vulnerability within its borders.

- 18.2** Increase budgetary allocation to the education sector to fund expansion of infrastructural facilities and hiring of teachers.

Response

The State party wishes to report that there has been a significant increase in budgetary allocation for both teacher recruitment and infrastructure development over the period 2021 to 2025. From 2021 to 2025, the State party allocated a total of approximately 6.19 billion for infrastructure development across various

education sectors with yearly allocations increasing from 21.77 million in 2021, to over 2.48 billion in 2025, representing a huge percentage increase of 2699% in 2022. This trend clearly indicates a strong focus on enhancing educational infrastructure alongside efforts to improve teacher recruitment. From 2021, to 2024, the State party recruited a total of 40,628 teachers across early childhood, primary, and secondary schools, with the highest recruitment in 2022. This information is provided in the table below.

Table 1: Infrastructure Development Allocation for the Period 2021 to 2025

Year	Sector	Amount Allocated	% Increase
2021	Infrastructure Development	21,773,109.00	-
2022	Infrastructure Development	609,491,497.00	2699%
2023	Infrastructure Development	1,505,347,894.00	147%
2024	Infrastructure Development	1,571,861,573.00	4%
2025	Infrastructure Development	2,485,178,727.00	58%
Total		6,193,652,800.00	

Table 2: Teacher Recruitment from 2021 to 2024

Year	Early Childhood (Pre-School)	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Total
2021	119	556	757	1,432
2022	2066	25736	2694	30,496
2023	530	1819	2151	4,500
2024	548	1057	2595	4,200

- 18.3** Ensure that private schools meet the required standards such as land, infrastructure, teaching and learning curriculum and assessment.

Response

The State party wishes to report that private schools are required to meet established standards through a thorough registration process that evaluates land ownership, infrastructure, staff qualifications, and curriculum compliance. Following registration, these schools are subject to regular monitoring and enforcement by the Ministry of Education. Private schools that do not meet the required standards face the risk of non-registration or closure. To ensure ongoing compliance, inspections are carried out by the Ministry of Education's Directorate of Standards at the national, provincial, and district levels, in coordination with relevant bodies such as the Teaching Council of Zambia.

19. Article 22: Right to Economic, Social and Cultural Development

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 19.1** The Commission reiterates its recommendation to the GoZ to Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Right of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security.

Response

The State party has taken major steps to facilitate ratification of the Protocol. The processes undertaken include sensitisation of major stakeholders such as policy and law makers as well as implementers and advocates of social protection, to popularise the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Right of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security. The State party is in the process of commencing consultations on the Protocol in readiness for submission to the National Assembly for approval.

- 19.2** Continue its efforts to reduce poverty, foster socio-economic development

Response

The State party has made considerable progress in implementing social protection programmes and in scaling development spending to disadvantaged regions, in line with Vision 2030 and 8NDP objectives. The Government's primary strategic vehicle is the 8NDP, whose overarching goal is "socioeconomic transformation for improved livelihoods" and which explicitly targets poverty reduction, job creation, and regional equity. Vision 2030 remains the long-term anchor, aiming for Zambia to become a "prosperous middle-income nation by 2030" through sustained GDP growth, improved human development indicators, and reduced inequality.

Key policy and budgetary measures between 2020 and 2025 interventions; among them include:

a. Constituency Development Fund

The State Party has continued to increase the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) which increased from K1.6 million in 2021 to K36.1 million per Constituency in 2025. This substantial increase in CDF allocation has empowered communities to spearhead local initiatives tailored to their unique development priorities. Through innovative and strategic utilisation, the CDF holds immense potential to not only address pressing developmental gaps at the constituency level, but also to unlock new economic opportunities for the citizens both in rural and urban areas.

b. Free Education

The State Party is implementing a comprehensive free education policy aimed at ensuring universal access to education, from early childhood level through to secondary school. This policy represents a significant step towards inclusive education, offering learning opportunities to children who were previously excluded due to financial constraints, particularly in rural areas. The marked increase in school enrolment rates across the country is a clear indicator of its positive and transformative impact.

c. Social Cash Transfer

The State Party has also significantly increased the bi-monthly transfer value allocated to beneficiaries under the Social Cash Transfer Programme from K300 and K400 in 2020, K400 and K800 in 2021 to 2024 and K800 and K1200, in 2025, respectively. This intervention plays a critical role in alleviating the hardships faced by the most vulnerable members of the society, particularly those residing in rural areas. By enhancing the value of these transfers, the State Party is reinforcing the commitment to inclusive social protection and thus contributing to reducing inequalities.

In addition, other initiatives such as the Smallholder Agriculture Financing Facility being implemented to stimulate rural economies. Moreover, at the national level, the State Party has put in place measures to attract investment across all sectors of the economy. This strategy will not only drive economic growth but will also ensure that the benefits of development reach even every part of the country. Infrastructure investment in road, energy, and digital connectivity to integrate remote areas into the national economy, in line with Vision 2030's balanced regional development pillar.

d. Cash-for-Work programme

The State party has disbursed about ZMW 1.49 billion to 2,480,002 beneficiaries on this programme in the period under review with the aim of alleviating hardships for communities that were negatively affected by the 2023-2024 seasonal draught in both urban and rural areas. The programme is guaranteed to continue in the coming years and it's targeted at the most vulnerable persons in the communities.

Sectoral programmes such as the Comprehensive Agriculture Transformation Support Programme (CATSP) and Sustainable Agriculture Financing Facility (SAFF), aimed at increasing productivity and resilience to climate shocks, which disproportionately affect least developed provinces.

19.3 Combat regional development disparities, in particular through the implementation of the development project: "Zambia 2030"

Response

The State party has continued to prioritise increased resource allocation to address strategies on human rights as outlined in various national policies including in the implementation of the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and the current Eighth National Development Plan.

Through this increased resource allocation, the country has achieved the following, among others:

- i. enacted the National Planning and Budgeting Act No.1 of 2020 which captures the inclusion of human rights strategies and approaches in national development;
- ii. amended the Parole Rules to promote the parole system in the country; and
- iii. enacted the Children's Code No. 12 of 2022 to better address and protect children in conflict and contact with the law.

Further, the State party has also mainstreamed a number of international frameworks into national development planning processes and documents that engender the promotion of human rights strategies and development policies. This includes the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Istanbul and Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (IPOA). This has enabled the country to meet its commitments on reporting on human rights strategies and development policies.

IV. RIGHTS OF THE FAMILY AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

20. Mandate of the Working Group on Rights of Older Persons and People with Disabilities

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 20.1** Amend the Penal Code Act and the Criminal Procedure Code Act to remove derogatory language, such as unsound mind, in consultation with the disability sector.

Response

The State party appreciates the recommendation and wishes to report that the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code are currently under review.

- 20.2** The Commission reiterates its recommendation to the GoZ to Ratify the Protocols to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, relating to older persons and people with disabilities.

Response

The State party has commenced formal processes for the ratification of the Protocols in accordance with the Ratification of International Agreements Act, 2016.

- 20.3** Strengthen its sensitisation efforts with regards to the rights of older persons and people with disabilities.

Response

The State party has taken several measures to strengthen its sensitisation efforts which include:

1. The launch of the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities. During the period under review, the State party continued to implement the National Aging Policy to address various challenges faced by older persons.
2. Commemoration of the various United Nations Disability Calendar Days throughout the year, such as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, to sensitize the public on the rights of persons with disabilities.
3. Making deliberate efforts to ensure sensitisation on the existing laws and policies on persons with disabilities, through the creation of sensitization

programmes on various articles and provisions of the Persons with the Disabilities Act, which are aired on different media platforms.

4. Enhancing collaboration with traditional leaders and community members, especially in border towns where discrimination of persons with albinism is rampant.
5. Appointment of Disability Focal Point Persons in all Ministries and Government institutions to enhance disability inclusion in all government programmes.
6. Increasing collaboration with organisations advocating for the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities.
7. Issuing of a Cabinet Circular Minute No. 30 of 2024, on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in Public Buildings to all Statutory Bodies and Institutions, giving a specific time frame of compliance to the circular.

- 20.4** Ensure the full and effective implementation of policies dealing with the rights of older persons, including their dignity, wellbeing, safety and security, and protecting them from any kind of abuses.

Response

The State party wishes to report that it has taken steps to ensure the full and effective implementation of policies dealing with the rights of older persons, through the following measures:

- a) implementation of the National Ageing Policy of 2015. This ensures that older persons live with dignity and security, with their rights upheld, thereby preventing and reducing all forms of discrimination based on age. Further, the State party is in the process of reviewing the National Ageing Policy of 2015.
- b) adoption of the National Social Protection Policy of 2025 which focuses on the life cycle approach to cover individuals from risks and vulnerabilities at different stages of life including old age following the expiration of the 2014 National Social Protection Policy.
- c) implementation of the National Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Policy of 2018 which provides a framework for coordinated NGO operations including those that support older persons and advocate for their rights.
- d) implementation of social protection programmes such as the Social Cash Transfer Programme, Food Security Pack Programme and Public Welfare Assistance Scheme to support older persons.

- 20.5** Pursue its efforts to combat discrimination against peoples with disabilities and the age-related discrimination.

Response

The State party has undertaken several measures to combat discrimination against peoples with disabilities and age-related discrimination which include:

1. enhancing provision of social protection to older persons and persons with disabilities;
2. commemorating various disability calendar days including the International Day for Persons with Disabilities which are aimed at raising awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons;
3. promoting public awareness campaigns to combat stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities and older persons;
4. enhancing collaboration with traditional leaders in selected provinces in raising awareness on disability rights and their role in promoting these rights;
5. commemorating social protection week where various stakeholders sensitize the public on the various programmes being provided especially for persons with disabilities and older persons; and
6. working with various partners and trained media personnel from selected provinces in disability etiquette when reporting.

21. Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrant in Africa

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 21.1 Consider lifting reservations on Articles 17, 22, 26 and 28 of the 1951 Convention

Response

The State party notes this recommendation, and wishes to report that in relation to Articles 17, 22 and 28 which provide for wage-earning employment for refugees, public education and travel documents, refugees in the State party are not excluded from engaging in gainful employment, provided they have requisite documentation, qualifications and meet statutory requirements such as necessary immigration permits (in this case, an employment permit). Further, the State party provides free education to all from early childhood education through to secondary level, inclusive of refugees. The State party also issues a Conventional Travel Document and facilitates exit formalities to enable international travel among refugees. In view of the above, the State party will consider lifting the three reservations.

The State party will, however, maintain the status quo with regard to reservation 26 as enshrined in Article 22 of the Constitution of Zambia and will continue to facilitate movement within the country through mobility passes and issuance of urban residence cards to those who meet the criteria to enable refugees reside outside Refugee Settlements.

- 21.2** Relating to the Status of Refugees, in order to remove restrictions on the right to work, access to education and freedom of movement for refugees.

Response

The Constitution guarantees dignity, equality, social justice and non-discrimination and these rights and values apply to everyone. The Refugees Act No. 1 of 2017 provides a robust legal framework for the protection of asylum seekers and refugees. Refugees are granted access to education. Further, refugees that wish to reside in urban areas require urban residence cards. If they wish to engage in any business or employment, he or she is required to obtain the relevant permit in accordance with the Immigration and Deportation Act No. 18 of 2010.

- 21.3** Pursue the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee response framework (CRRF), established in 2017.

Response

The State party wishes to report that it has continued to implement the CRRF which is coordinated through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, both at national and local levels through inter-ministerial and inter-agency mechanisms in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other Partners.

Further, the State party wishes to report on the successful negotiations and subsequent approval by the World Bank financing under the IDA20 window for Host Communities and Refugees of a grant of United States Dollars 30,000,000. The grant will support the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security to implement the Zambia Refugee and Host Communities project which is aimed at improving access to socio-economic opportunities for refugees and host communities. It will also support the review of existing laws and regulations to create an enabling environment for refugees as well as issuance of identification cards for refugees and former refugees, improve road network, school and medical infrastructure in the settlement and host communities as well as support climate resilience agricultural initiatives to promote self-reliance, among others.

- 21.4** Ensure that the Refugees Act No. 1 of 2017 implementation addresses issues relating to denial of registration or slow process of refugee status determination for asylum seekers.

Response

The State party wishes to report that it has continued with its open-door policy of receiving asylum seekers from different countries. Within its legal framework of the Refugees Act No.1 of 2017, asylum seekers are given access to territory and asylum procedures which include registration and refugee status determination (RSD). In an effort to address the slow process of RSD cases, the State party has placed emphasis on asylum seekers seeking services at the port of entry or Districts near the port of entry as opposed to travelling a distance of over 900 kilometres to access registration services in Lusaka which lead to concentration of reception of cases in Lusaka and prolonged processing time. In order to align with the National Decentralisation Policy of 2023, registration will strictly be carried out in designated Refugee Settlements and Transit Centres located near the ports of entry to enable timely processing of cases. However, to successfully implement the above, the State party will need technical and financial support as there would be need for increased human resource, equipment, operation logistics and capacity building of new personnel.

The State party remains committed to ensuring that asylum seekers are accorded the right to seek asylum and access registration as well as RSD procedures.

- 21.5** Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

Response

The State party appreciates the recommendation and wishes to report that it is engaged in consultations regarding the ratification of the Convention.

- 21.6** Concretise the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) commitment to ensure that all children below the age of 18 born in Zambia, refugees with special needs and those aged 60 and above would receive residence permits without tight screening.

Response

The State party wishes to report that stakeholder consultations are ongoing to address many variants presented in implementing this commitment.

- 21.7** Include in the next Periodic Report part "C" on the implementation of the Kampala Convention.

Response

Refer to response in paragraph 1.2.

21.8 Pursue its commitment to the "I belong" campaign to end statelessness by 2024.

Response

The State party wishes to report that it is still pursuing its commitment under the "I belong Campaign to end Statelessness by 2024". Following the conclusion of the Campaign in December, 2024, the State party became a member of the Global Alliance to end Statelessness which was launched in October, 2024, in an effort to address statelessness.

The State party has also continued its efforts in enhancing birth registration to ensure that children born in Zambia are registered, accordingly.

22. Mandate of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of People living with HIV (PLHIV) and those at Risk, Vulnerable to and affected by HIV

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

22.1 Elaborate a new framework, as a continuation of the National AIDS Strategic Framework (2017-2021).

Response

The State party developed the Revised National AIDS Strategic Framework (RNASF 2020-2023) which was informed by, among other things, the NASF 2017-2021 mid-term review which brought out some of the gaps in the Zambian response and provided some recommendations.

Some of the notable revisions in the RNASF 2020-2023 included the following:

- i. Differentiated Combination Prevention;
- ii. Innovations in interventions, products, activities and delivery models: community differentiated HTS; self-testing; retesting for high risk populations, PrEP; male corners providing comprehensive health services for men; Index testing; TLD and TLE combinations; accelerate essential drug, condom and lubricant distribution in hard-to-reach areas, among others;
- iii. Recency testing;
- iv. Focus on finding men who have been left out in the response to HIV and AIDS;
- v. A shift from intervention-focus to a people-centred response. Examples include differentiated service delivery (DSD) for ART such as Community ART Groups (CAGs) and ART Refills Groups;
- vi. Alignment to the 95-95-95 Targets;
- vii. Community Led Monitoring

- viii. Streamlined the definition of key population list and other vulnerable populations;
- ix. Adoption of results-based planning and accountability framework (Strategic Results, or Goals; Program Results; Result Areas, and Outcome Results cascading into output level results at the operational planning level);
- x. Review of service delivery models and response allocation prioritisation criteria especially for commodities such as condoms and lubricants - From geography to sources and drivers of the epidemic);
- xi. Strengthened focus on gender mainstreaming and considering different needs and aspirations of men, women, boys and girls; and
- xii. Consideration of the leaving no one behind principles to ensure equitable access to treatment, care and support for all vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants, inmates to the largest extent possible.

Further, the State party developed and launched the National HIV & AIDS Strategic Framework 2023-2027 (NASF) with five key strategic objectives, including:

- Reduction of new infections by at least 50% from 28,000 to 14,000 by 2027.
- Reduction of AIDS related mortality by 50% from 20,000 to 10,000 by 2027.
- Reduction of HIV related stigma and discrimination by 50%
- Increasing domestic financing of the HIV response from 13.8% to 30% by 2027.
- Reduction of vertical transmission of HIV, which stood at 3.7% to less than 3% by 2027.

The Zambia Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (ZAMPHIA) 2021 report indicates that significant strides have been made towards attaining the 95-95-95 UNAIDS targets. 89% of infected people are aware of their HIV status, while 98% of infected individuals are currently receiving highly effective antiretroviral treatment and 96% of those on treatment are virally suppressed.

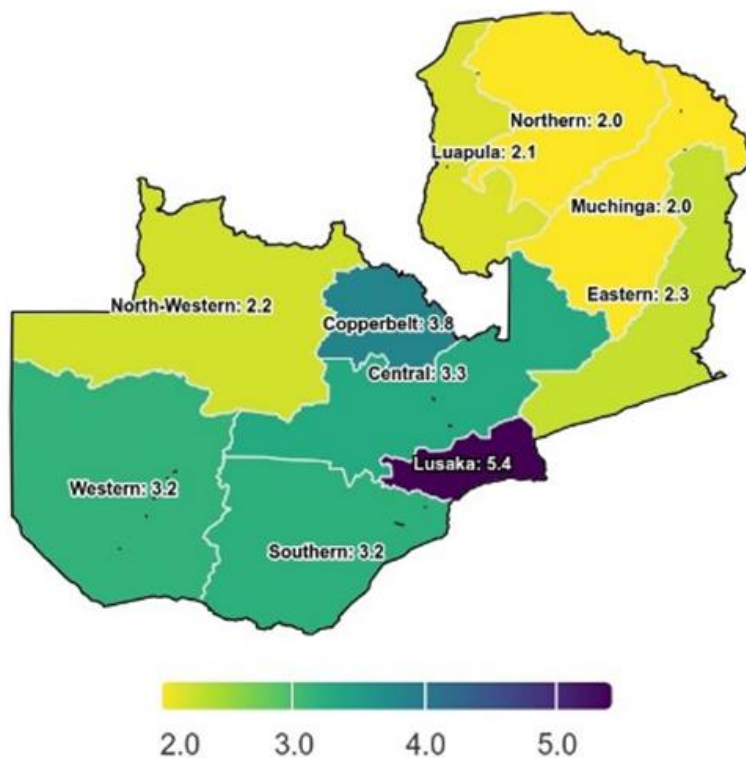
The HIV incidence in Zambia is estimated among adults aged 15 and above to be 0.31% higher at 0.6% among women than 0.1% among men. The annual incidence of HIV among young people aged 15-24 years was 0.4%, with young women having a higher incidence at 0.8%.

This translates into 23,000 new HIV infections annually. There has been a significant decline in the number of new HIV infections over the past 10 years, from about 85,000 in 2002, to 23,000 in 2023.

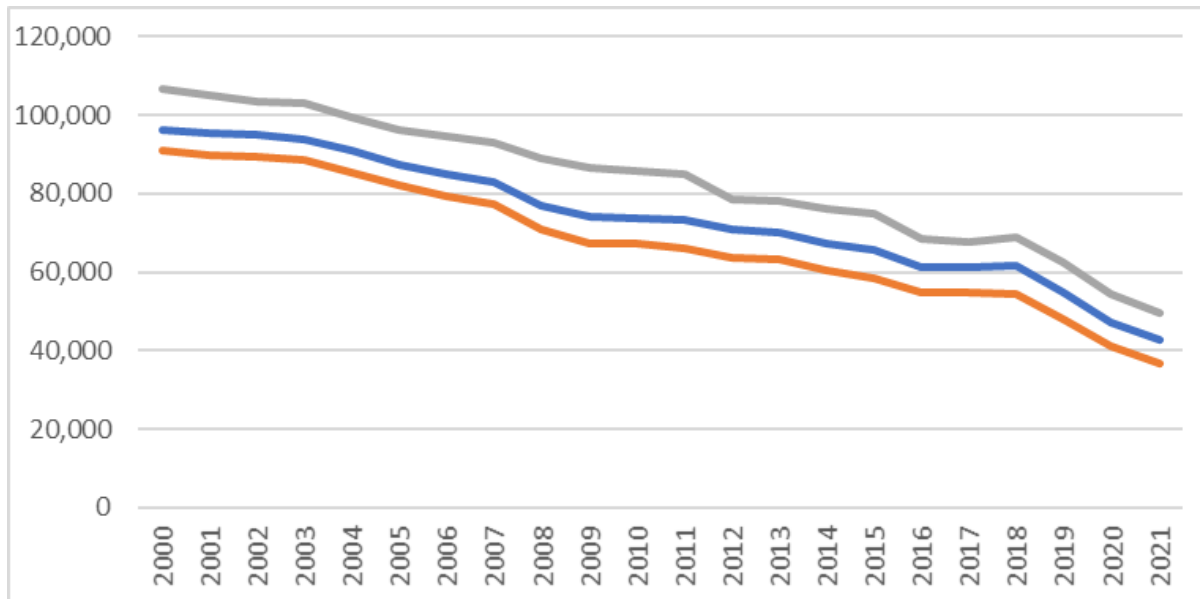
The ZAMPHIA 2021 report estimated HIV prevalence among adults aged 15 years and above at 11.0%, 13.9% among women and 8.0% among men. HIV prevalence was higher among women compared to men from the 20-24 age group to the 35-39 age group and the 45-49 age group. The largest difference was observed in the 30-34 age group, with a prevalence of 19.4% in women and 7.0% in men.

Adults Living with HIV

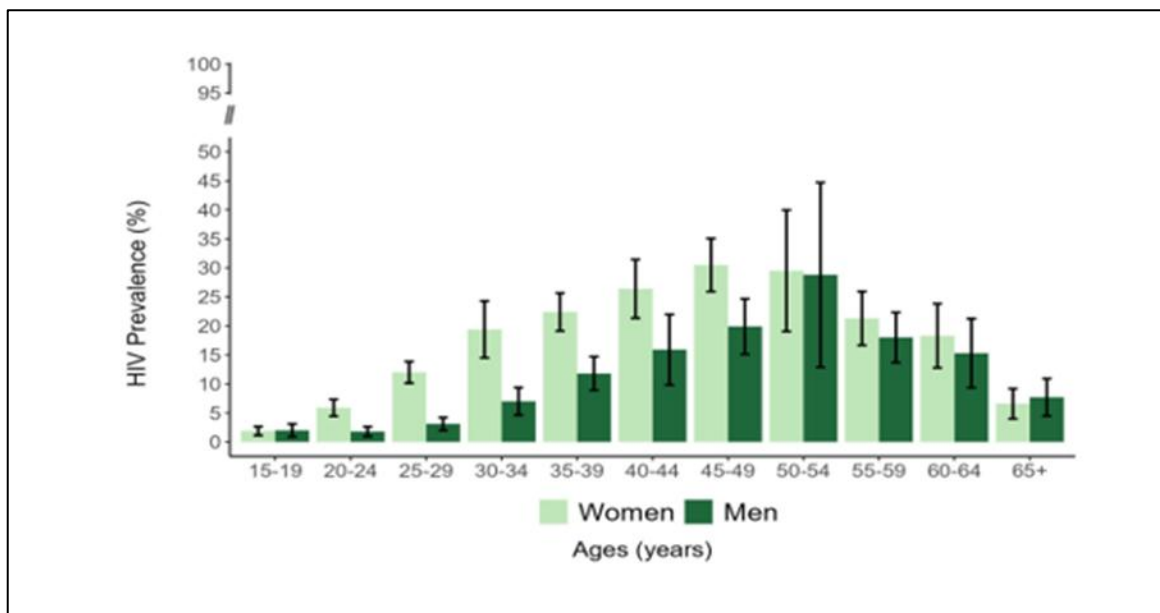
HIV incidence per 1000, 15-49, Both, December 2022



HIV new infection trends over time



HIV PREVALENCE BY AGE



Recent program data shows that the UNAIDS 95:95:95 targets were met at the end of 2024, with 96% of people living with HIV knowing their status, 98% of those who know their status on treatment and 97% of those on treatment having viral load suppression.

The HIV prevalence rate in Zambia is 11.5% translating to approximately 1,341,098 people - 840,000 females and 501,098 male living with HIV, of which 1,303, 472 are receiving treatment.

Other Measures

The State party has implemented other measures such as the following:

- Development of consolidated guidelines for treatment and prevention of HIV and AIDS.
- Enhanced treatment access to Antiretroviral Therapy, including introduction of oral and injectable PREP.
- Triple Elimination of Mother-To-Child transmission (e-MTCT) of HIV, Syphilis and Viral hepatitis B.
- Introduced Differentiated Service Delivery models to accommodate PLHIV to access treatment through Community models such as Community-Based Antiretroviral Groups (CAGs) and Multi-Drug dispensation strategies.

22.2 Adopt appropriate policies to deal with short-term challenges to the national response to HIV/AIDS, such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

Response

The State party:

- commissioned a Rapid Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on People Living with HIV and Key Populations in July, 2021.
- prepared the COVID-19 National Multi-Sectoral Contingency and Response Plan (NMCRP) to guide the preparedness and response mechanism to be undertaken in the context of the threat from the global outbreak of COVID-19.
- set the target of 95% of people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV better protected against health emergencies and pandemics, including COVID-19 (Pandemic preparedness) in the 2023-2027 National AIDS Strategic Framework.
- launched the National Strategy for Reducing New Infections of COVID-19

22.3 Pay particular attention to people with HIV in special contexts, such as people in Prison and Correctional institutions.

Response

The State party through the NASF 2023-2027 prioritises inmates as key populations that need to be reached with HIV prevention programmes and sets the following targets:

- Increase the percentage of inmates to be reached with HIV prevention programmes from 73.7% in 2023, to 95% in 2027.

- Reduce the percentage of inmates who avoided health care because of stigma and discrimination from 35% in 2023, to 10% in 2027.
- Increase the percentage of inmates who know their HIV status from 71% in 2023, to 95% in 2027.
- Increase the percentage of inmates living with HIV receiving ART from 71% in 2023, to 95% in 2027.

The State party has continued to provide support towards inmates affected by HIV/AIDS through various strategies and approaches as follows:

- i. well-established Health Directorate in the Zambia Correctional Service which focuses on health of inmates and staff which addresses HIV/AIDS among other diseases.
- ii. creation of a position of HIV/TB coordinator in the Zambia Correctional Service who focuses on HIV and TB among inmates.

The State party has put in place the following programs aimed at supporting inmates living with HIV:

- i. routine sensitisations of inmates on HIV/AIDS across all prisons and correctional centres.
- ii. training of peer educators among inmates.
- iii. information dissemination on prevention, behavioural change and adherence counselling.

To prevent HIV among inmates, the State party provides the following services:

- i. inmates are offered Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PreP) medication after counselling.
- ii. they are also offered Post exposure Prophylaxis.
- iii. information on HIV prevention is always disseminated to inmates in the cell.

To diagnose HIV, the following services are available:

- i. inmates are screened or tested for HIV on admission via HIV counselling and testing.
- ii. screening for HIV is also done routinely while on admission via counselling and testing.
- iii. testing kits are made available by the Ministry of Health and cooperating partners.

The following are the services offered to inmates who are found to be infected with HIV:

- i. they are put on Antiretroviral Treatment (ART and ARVs).
- ii. HIV infected inmates are also put on prevention and treatment for opportunistic infections. For example, they are given TB prevention therapy (TPT), septrin treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

For sustainability of HIV programs in Prisons and Correctional Centres, the State party Coordinates with cooperating partners who support HIV programs and activities for inmates. These include Ministry of Health, International Organization such as, President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) as well as local organizations such as Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), Centre for International Health, Education and Biosecurity (CIHEB) and other faith based organizations that offer services such as ARVs and medication for opportunist infections, render technical support to health staff in HIV/AIDS, capacity building via trainings and support infrastructure and equipment.

- 22.4** Eradicate traditional beliefs that encourage sexual abuse of minors, pretending that it will aid in or cure diseases, such as HIV/ AIDS.

Response

The State party:

- discourages cultural, religious and social norms that perpetuate the transmission of HIV, STIs and TB;
- promotes behaviour change that facilitate reduction of HIV/AIDS/STI/TB.
- increased access to support services and legal protection of adolescents and young adults from physical and sexual violence, sexual exploitation and sex work, human trafficking, and illicit substance.
- involves the traditional Health Practitioners Association of Zambia (THPAZ) in the development of policy and strategic documents.
- developed Social Behaviour Change (SBC) materials that discourage negative beliefs.
- uses traditional leaders as champions.

- 22.5** Strengthen the campaigns to raise awareness and promote comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS, particularly among adolescents and young adults and other vulnerable groups.

Response

The following strategic programmes are aimed at protecting adolescents and young people:

- Scaling up and strengthening peer-to-peer education and support networks at school, health facility and community;
- Use of community-based and community-led outreach services to reach out to adolescents and young people (AYP);
- Lobby and engage key stakeholders such as traditional and civic leaders, members of Parliament, and other policy makers to address harmful social and cultural norms that promote intergenerational sex and child marriages;
- Use of a multifaceted approach, including the use of social media and community radio stations to disseminate HIV information;
- Adopted the Life and Health Education (LSHE) in the new education curriculum;
- Translated HIV and AIDS materials in various languages and formats to cater for persons with disabilities;
- Introduced Adolescent Health facilities where AYPs can freely ask SRH questions and access services that are non-judgemental.
- Targets adolescents to be reached with sexual reproductive health at a projected increase from 632,215 in 2023, to 2,021,811 in 2027.
- Development of Social Behaviour Change Strategy.
- Development and Launch of the National Adolescent Health Strategic plan 2022-2026

V. COLLECTIVE RIGHTS/PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

23. Articles 19-24: Mandate of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 23.1** For the next Periodic Report, comply with the Commission's State Reporting Guidelines on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations, and the Niamey Declaration on Ensuring the Upholding of the African Charter in the Extractive Industries Sector - ACHPR/Res. 367 (LX) 2017.

Response

The State party reports that it has complied with the Reporting Guidelines.

- 23.2** Strengthen the legal framework, by enshrining the principles of: State duty to protect human rights, corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and access to remedy for victims of corporate abuses.

Response

The State party wishes to report that it has repealed and replaced the Mines and Minerals Development Act No. 11 of 2015, with the Minerals Regulation Commission Act No. 14 of 2024. The State party also passed the Geological and Minerals Development Act No.2 of 2025, which were signed into law by the President and came into force on 13th June, 2025. These new laws mark a significant legal and institutional shift in the governance of Zambia's mining sector.

The Minerals Regulation Commission (MRC) consolidates key mining regulatory functions previously held by the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development and introduces an independent Mining Appeals Tribunal. This regulatory reform enhances State oversight, strengthens compliance, and aims to maximize the public benefit derived from the country's mineral wealth.

The Minerals Regulation Commission Act empowers the Minister to make Regulations that provide for, *inter alia*:

- i. the preservation of the environment in licensed areas;
- ii. the participation by mining right and mineral processing licence holders in the development of the local communities;
- iii. the regulation of work and machinery connected with exploration, mining or mineral processing in so far as safety and the protection of life are concerned;
- iv. the regulation of all matters relating to sanitation and health, including the establishment of cemeteries, in mining and mineral processing areas; and
- v. the reporting of cases of accident and death occurring on any exploration, mining, gold panning or mineral processing area.

The State party is currently developing the Mineral Development Commission Regulations to address these issues.

Further, the State party is currently developing the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights which will reinforce:

- i. the State party's duty to protect its people from human rights abuses by businesses;
- ii. the corporate responsibility of businesses to respect human rights; and
- iii. access to remedies for individuals and communities whose rights are infringed.

- 23.3** Ensure effective and rigorous participation of affected communities in the conceptualisation and the implementation of mining and other extractive industry projects, in particular, through the amendment of section 20 of the Mines and Minerals Development Act No.11 of 2015.

Response

The State party wishes to report that its Geological and Minerals Development Act No. 2 of 2025 requires the holders of Mining rights or Mineral processing licences to give preference to materials and products produced within the State party. It also requires that preference be given to suppliers, contractors and service agencies located within the State party which are citizen-owned or citizen-empowered.

To enhance community participation and ensure locals benefit from mining, the State party has prioritized both legislative and institutional measures and has undertaken measures including but not limited to the following:

a. Finalisation of Local Content Regulations

The State party is currently finalising the Local Content Regulations, which will introduce statutory requirements for participation of citizens of the State party in the procurement, ownership, and employment across the mining sector value chain. These Regulations aim to ensure that local communities and businesses derive meaningful economic benefits from mining investments.

b. Establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)

The State party has established a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called the Zambia Minerals Investments Corporation Limited to increase State participation in mine ownership and mineral trading. The SPV will operate as a strategic tool for public-private partnerships, advancing the State party's national interest and ensuring that the benefits of mining are equitably shared with its citizens.

c. Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

The State party continues to promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in host communities. Although CSR is not legally mandated, engagement through the Public-Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) has resulted in improved community investments and infrastructure development. Mining companies are increasingly contributing to education, health, and social services in response to Government advocacy and stakeholder expectations.

d. Formalization of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

The State party has embarked on the process of formalising the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) sector, under section 8 of the Geological and Minerals Development Act. To date, over 800 ASM licences have been issued, and licensees have received targeted support through training in financial literacy, regulatory compliance, and occupational safety. These efforts are aimed at improving operational efficiency, ensuring adherence to legal standards, and integrating ASM activities in affected communities into the formal economy.

- 23.4** Ensure a reasonable revenue sharing arrangement between the national government and local authorities in affected communities.

Response

The State party reports that it remains committed to collaboratively engaging with all relevant stakeholders to establish a fair, transparent, and sustainable revenue-sharing framework. These measures are essential to ensuring that the State party's natural resource wealth translates into tangible benefits for the communities hosting these industries, thereby upholding the country's obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Maputo Protocol.

A fair revenue-sharing arrangement between the Central Government and Local Authorities is key in delivering developmental benefits to local communities, particularly those domiciled in the mining hubs.

To achieve this, several key aspects as influenced by the reports and obligations under Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights should be met so that equitable growth, social stability, and environmental sustainability are fostered.

In financial management terms, key considerations, strategic recommendations and current status of the Treasury's key interventions in ensuring prudent financial management in local authorities include:

a) Strengthening Legal and Policy Frameworks

The State party will endeavour to develop or revise legislation to establish mandatory and equitable revenue-sharing mechanisms, ensuring that a fair proportion of mineral revenues is directly allocated to local authorities and affected communities. This will incorporate provisions for transparency and accountability to foster trust and strengthen stakeholder confidence.

b) Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement

The State party aims to promote constructive dialogue among local authorities, community leaders, civil society, and the private sector to agree on fair distribution formulas and priorities that meet local needs. Currently, a Technical Working Group made up of key stakeholders has been established to increase citizen engagement and enhance service delivery to local communities. This platform could be expanded to include issues related to establishing a fair revenue-sharing arrangement between the central Government and local authorities, especially regarding extractive industries, in recognition of the State party's significant mineral potential and the related economic benefits.

c) Enhancing Revenue Management and Oversight:

The State party remains committed to establishing comprehensive monitoring and auditing systems to meticulously track revenue flows, prevent misappropriation, and ensure that funds are effectively designated for development initiatives that directly benefit local populations.

In this context, the Treasury has reviewed and updated the Local Authorities Accounting and Procedures Manual to provide detailed guidance on critical areas such as Internal Control and Risk Management, Budgeting, Banking and Cash Management, Revenue and Expenditure Accounting, Procurement, Stores Management and Reporting. The revision aims to strengthen financial practices, promote transparency and enhance overall governance within Local Authorities.

In accordance with the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act No. 1 of 2018, Local Authorities are mandated, through Treasury Financial Management Circulars, to submit regular financial returns and records. Additionally, the Office of the Auditor General undertakes routine audits of Local Authorities to ensure compliance and accountability.

To promote prudent financial reporting across Local Authorities, the Treasury plans to implement a standardised financial management system in all Local Authorities by 2027. This initiative aims to eliminate discrepancies, foster transparency and reinforce accountability within local government financial operations.

The State party has developed an online platform where Local Authorities can upload essential information including, but not limited to, audited annual financial statements, procurement contracts and advertisements in order to enhance transparency and facilitate information sharing.

d) Capacity Building and Resource Allocation:

The State party has continued to implement targeted capacity-building programmes for local government officials focusing on financial management,

project implementation and environmental stewardship to optimize the impact of shared revenues.

The State party, through its national treasury, offers training and capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening the financial management skills of staff within Local Authorities. These programmes are designed to equip officials with the requisite knowledge and competencies to effectively manage public funds, thereby preventing financial mismanagement and promoting the responsible and accountable use of resources.

- 23.5** Ensure the full protection of the rights of indigenous communities, women, children and other vulnerable groups in the context of business/extractive corporations' activities.

Response

The 2022 National Mineral Resources Development Policy commits the State party to mainstreaming gender, disability, and vulnerability considerations in the mining sector. This commitment is operationalized through a range of targeted programs.

The Zambia Mining Environmental Remediation and Improvement Project (ZMERIP) supported by the World Bank conducted large-scale lead exposure testing and treatment for over 10,000 children in Kabwe, and implemented remediation of contaminated schools and homes. Mining companies involved were engaged in their CSR responsibilities, including mine closure planning and safe waste management.

The London Metal Exchange—funded "Children Out of Mining" initiative (2019-2023) withdrew children from hazardous work in the ASM sector in Central and Copperbelt Provinces, while supporting their education and offering alternative livelihoods to their families. The project also established Child Protection Committees with local authorities, CSOs, and police to monitor child labour risks and empower women through savings groups and training.

- 23.6** Enhance the compliance of companies with national reporting obligations on the environmental and social impacts of their activities.

Response

The State party wishes to report that its mining laws place significant emphasis on environmental and social protection. Under Section 59(b) of the Minerals Regulation Commission Act No. 14 of 2024, mining and mineral processing operations are required to "prevent any adverse socio-economic impact or harm to human health in or on the land over which the right or licence is sought."

In addition, the Environmental Management Act 2011 mandates all mining operations to obtain environmental authorisations and comply with pollution and waste control permits issued by the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA). Legal liability for environmental damage now extends to parent companies, as demonstrated in a landmark ruling where the London Supreme Court held that Vedanta Resources liable for toxic discharges by its subsidiary, KCM.

These legal safeguards are reinforced by Zambia's commitment to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). As a compliant EITI member, the State party discloses revenues, taxes, and other payments from the mining sector, fostering transparency and public accountability.

The State party also receives annual reports from mining operators through the Mines Safety Department and conducts spot inspections and audits in collaboration with ZEMA. Although sustainability reporting is not yet legally required, companies are encouraged to voluntarily publish environmental and social performance reports.

24. Mandate of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities in Africa

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

24.1 Ratify the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of 1989.

Response

The State party takes note of the recommendation.

24.2 Develop a legal or administrative framework that specifically recognises and protects the rights of indigenous peoples/ communities, people belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

Response

The State party takes note of the recommendation.

24.3 Take measures to ensure the effective participation of all communities in decision-making bodies, including through the introduction of quotas.

Response

The State party recognises that the participation of marginalised and vulnerable populations including persons with disabilities, women, and youths, is both a human right and a developmental imperative.

The Constitution of Zambia guarantees the protection of human rights and non-discrimination under Article 8 (National Values and Principles), and Article 23 (Non-Discrimination).

Further, Article 45(1) of the Constitution provides that the electoral system shall ensure:

- a) That citizens are free to exercise their political rights;
- b) Universal adult suffrage based on the equality of a vote;
- c) Fair representation of the various interest groups in society; and
- d) Gender equity in the National Assembly or Council.

In addition, the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012 and the National Policy Persons with Disabilities operationalised the State party's commitment to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

In line with these constitutional and statutory provisions, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has undertaken several administrative measures to promote inclusive participation:

a) Gender and Inclusion Policy

The ECZ has developed and operationalized a Gender and Inclusion Policy aimed at promoting the electoral rights of women and persons with disabilities. To ensure effective implementation, the Commission has appointed Gender and Disability Inclusion Focal Point Persons to spearhead mainstreaming efforts.

b) Affirmative Action on Nomination Fees

To lower barriers to participation, the ECZ has introduced reduced nomination fees for women, youths, and persons with disabilities. On average, these groups pay 25% less than the standard nomination fees for an ordinary candidate at all levels of representation.

c) Strategic Collaboration with Government and Civil Society

The Commission has strengthened partnerships with institutions such as the Gender Division, Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD), and civil society organizations. These institutions are integrated into strategic ECZ structures such as the National and District Voter Education Committees and the National and District Conflict Management Committees, thereby enhancing participation and representation of marginalized groups.

- 24.4** Take targeted measures to protect ancestral lands, including through the issuance of a collective title deed that can stand up in court.

Response

The State party has taken steps to strengthen the protection of customary and ancestral lands. Through the Social Tenure Domain Model, customary occupancy certificates have been issued in chiefdoms to enhance tenure security for communities, including women and vulnerable groups. In 2021, the State party adopted the first National Land Policy, which promotes inclusive land allocation, mass land titling, and improved dispute resolution mechanisms.

- 24.5** Strengthen and improve access for all communities to essential services such as education and health.

Response

Between 2020 and 2025, the State party undertook a series of investments and policy reforms aimed at improving physical access to health facilities and raising service levels toward international standards. According to the Ministry of Finance and National Planning Budget Speech (2025), the public health system consists of over 3,000 facilities, including first-level health posts, health centres, and district, general and tertiary hospitals, with the distribution heavily skewed toward urban areas. This urban bias in facility density is most pronounced in Lusaka and Copperbelt provinces, while rural provinces such as Luapula, Western and Muchinga have lower facility-to-population ratios, in some cases below the WHO-recommended target of one primary health facility per 10,000 population (WHO 2021). Under the 8NDP (2021 - 2026) the Government committed to expanding infrastructure, upgrading lower-level facilities to provide a broader range of services, and rehabilitating existing structures to meet acceptable quality standards.

From 2020 to 2023 over 300 new health posts and several district hospitals were completed, with funding drawn from domestic revenues, the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), and external financing (MoFNP Budget Speeches 2020–2023). These investments were supported by targeted policy measures such as the Health Infrastructure Operational Plan and the continued implementation of the National Health Policy (2020), which emphasises equitable access and universal health coverage. In 2022 and 2023, Government implemented its largest health workforce recruitment drives in decades, hiring more than 13,000 health workers over two years, including doctors, nurses, midwives, laboratory personnel and other cadres, in order to reduce staffing gaps particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Service-level improvements have also been pursued through the expansion of specialist services and the provision of essential medicines and supplies. In 2022, and 2023, the allocation for drugs and medical supplies more than doubled compared to pre-2021 levels, with the 2025 budget setting aside a significant

portion of the K23.17 billion health allocation for procurement and distribution (PMRC 2025 Budget Analysis). The Ministry of Health's Essential Medicines List has been reviewed to align with WHO Model Lists, and procurement reforms are underway to shorten lead times and reduce stock-outs, although challenges in foreign exchange availability and supplier performance have continued to affect availability in some provinces (MoH 2023 Health Sector Performance Report).

In terms of alignment with international service standards, the State party's health worker density in 2023 remained below the WHO SDG index threshold of 44.5 doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 population, standing at roughly 14 per 10,000. Coverage of essential health services, measured by the WHO/UHC service coverage index, was estimated at around 50 % in 2021, indicating gaps in access to key interventions such as non-communicable disease treatment and surgical care (WHO Global Health Observatory, 2023). Vision 2030 calls for a "nation of healthy and productive people" and specifically identifies upgrading and expanding health infrastructure, scaling up human resource capacity, and improving service quality as strategic objectives.

Policy instruments supporting these gains include the operationalisation of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) under the National Health Insurance Act (2018), which has gradually expanded beneficiary coverage; the Health Infrastructure Operational Plan, which sets priority projects for facility construction and upgrading; and the alignment of the essential package of health services with the WHO framework for integrated, people-centred services. The CDF Guidelines for 2022 - 2025 explicitly allow for community-led health facility construction and upgrading, integrating local development with national health goals. These measures collectively aim to close the rural-urban gap in access, improve the readiness of facilities to deliver essential services, and move Zambia closer to WHO coverage benchmarks.

A. MAPUTO PROTOCOL

25. Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights in Africa

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 25.1 Pursue its commitment to submit Reports under Maputo Protocol, in line with the relevant Guidelines for State Reporting.

Response

The State Party welcomes this recommendation and is pleased to state that this report has been prepared in line with the Guidelines on State Reporting.

- 25.2 Strengthen the involvement of civil society organisations in the elaboration process of the next periodic report.

The State Party appreciates the recommendation, and reports that civil society organizations were actively engaged in the preparation of this periodic report.

26. Legal and institutional framework

Recommendation: The GoZ should:

- 26.1 Pursue its efforts to disseminate, popularise, and translate the Maputo Protocol, as well as capacity-building, education, and awareness programs for all law enforcement officials on women's rights in the country.

Response

The State Party continues to make efforts to offer capacity-building, education and awareness programs and has implemented various programmes as highlighted in this report

27. Articles 2 and 3: Equality and Non-Discrimination

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 27.1 Fast-track the establishment of that The Gender Equity and Equality Commission.

Response

The State Party takes note of the recommendation.

- 27.2 Continue its efforts to combat discrimination resulting from cultural or customary harmful practices and gender stereotypes.

Response

The State Party wishes to report that it has initiated a comprehensive review of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act No.1 of 2011, to help combat discrimination stemming from harmful cultural practices and gender stereotypes. This legislative reform aims to close implementation gaps by strengthening survivor protections, enhancing enforcement, and expanding community-based prevention. The consultative process has involved a wide range of stakeholders, ensuring the revised law aligns with international and regional human rights standards, such as the Maputo Protocol, and reflects the lived experiences of those affected by harmful practices.

28. Articles 3-4: Violence against Women, elimination of harmful practices, right to dignity and rights to life, integrity and security

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 28.1** Ensure the effective implementation of the Gender-Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011.

Response

The State Party reaffirms its commitment to eliminating violence against women and harmful practices and to upholding the rights to dignity, life, integrity and security. The Gender-Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011 continues to be implemented and is currently under review to address implementation gaps and make the law more inclusive and survivor-centred.

The review aims to strengthen protection mechanisms for survivors, improve law enforcement and justice delivery and enhance community-based prevention efforts. It also seeks to ensure that vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and those in rural areas, are adequately protected.

These efforts are part of the State Party's broader commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the Maputo Protocol and other international and regional human rights instruments.

- 28.2** Ensure full operationalisation of the Gender-Based Crimes Unit (GBCU), established in 2015, to Prosecute offences related to gender-based violence cases, as well as the Victim Support Unit (VSUs).

Response

The State party, through the National Prosecution Authority Act No. 34 of 2010, established the National Prosecution Authority (NPA) which is headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions. The NPA is mandated to prosecute all criminal matters, including gender-based violence (GBV) cases, on behalf of the State. It houses a fully operational Gender-Based Crime and Child Protection Department at its headquarters, which has expanded its scope to include child protection matters. This department ensures that victims of GBV whose cases are properly investigated can access free legal services and are guided through the prosecution process.

The State party wishes to report that the Gender-Based Crime and Child Protection Department of the NPA is responsible for overseeing all GBV and child-related cases. It offers prosecutorial services, legal and technical advice, and handles the processing of dockets. The department also facilitates for counselling in deserving cases. In addition, the department implements prevention and sensitisation programmes for the public and conducts capacity-building activities. The department is led by a Deputy Chief State Advocate and supported by five prosecutors, ensuring specialised attention to GBV and child protection matters.

- 28.3** Strengthen specialised legal services offered to victims of gender-based violence by allocating adequate budget and resources.

Response

The State party has enhanced its specialised legal services for victims of gender-based violence (GBV) through the National Prosecution Authority (NPA), which is mandated to prosecute all criminal cases, including GBV, at no cost to victims. The NPA offers legal advice, guides victims through the prosecution process and can apply for civil protection or occupation orders during criminal trials. Additionally, financial support is provided to victims through the Witness Management Fund, covering transport, food and accommodation expenses to facilitate participation in legal proceedings. These support mechanisms are being strengthened further through proposed amendments aimed at increasing funding and expanding eligibility to include support persons.

The State party wishes to report that for civil matters, the Legal Aid Board offers free legal services to those who cannot afford, under the Legal Aid Act No. 1 of 2021, while the National Legal Aid Clinic for Women supports women and children experiencing GBV. If GBV is identified during civil proceedings, such as divorce, the case is referred for criminal prosecution by the NPA, subject to there being sufficient evidence. Recognising the need for improved service delivery, the State party has increased its prosecutorial workforce by hiring 62

prosecutors and advertising 50 additional positions to ensure wider national coverage and better handling of GBV cases.

28.4 Take Concrete Measures to amend the Penal Code to criminalise Marital rape.

Response

The State party acknowledges the challenges in criminalising marital rape, citing deep-rooted cultural beliefs and societal misconceptions that marriage implies perpetual consent to sex. The State party has included the review of the Penal Code and the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act on its legislative calendar, creating an opportunity to address this issue, although consultations on marital rape are still ongoing.

To support this reform, the State party is conducting sensitisation activities targeting both parliamentarians and communities. These efforts aim to raise awareness about the legal and human rights implications of marital rape, challenge harmful cultural norms as well as clarify the distinction between denial of conjugal rights and lack of consent. The State party recognises the need for broader societal acceptance and legal recognition of marital rape as a form of violence against women.

28.5 Pursue raising awareness of violence against women, especially in rural areas.

Response

The State party highlights its nationwide efforts to raise awareness on violence against women through a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach involving key stakeholders such as the Office of the President, where the Gender Division is positioned, Zambia Police Victim Support Unit (VSU), the Department of Social Welfare, the National Prosecution Authority's Gender-Based Crimes and Child Protection Department, Civil Society Organisations, the Ministry of Health (including One Stop Centres and Village – Led One Stop Centres), Religious leaders and Traditional leaders.

To ensure widespread reach, the State party has implemented various media initiatives, including radio and television programmes, particularly targeting high-density urban areas. In rural communities, awareness is promoted through community radio stations, village champions, traditional and religious leaders, all playing vital roles in sensitising the public on issues related to violence against women.

29. Article 5: Elimination of Harmful Practices

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 29.1** Pursue efforts aimed at eliminating sociological barriers and stereotypes that hinder the realisation of women's rights, in particular by boosting schooling for young girls, and ensuring greater involvement of civil society organisations.

Response

The State Party continues to pursue efforts aimed at eliminating sociological barriers and stereotypes that hinder the realisation of women's rights, in particular by boosting schooling for young girls and ensuring greater involvement of civil society organisations who are implementers of advocacy works in the State.

- 29.2** Pursue its efforts to eradicate harmful practices, as defined in Section 2 and 28(3) of the 2015 Gender Equity and Equality Act, including child marriage, widow cleansing and Female Genital Mutilation.

Response

The State Party has ratified the Maputo Protocol in 2006 and has since then taken key step to domesticate Article 5 through legislative, policy and institutional reforms to eliminate harmful practices.

The State Party continues to make efforts to eradicate harmful practices as highlighted in Part B, Maputo Protocol, Article 5.

- 29.3** Ensure full respect of the Local Courts Act in Section 12 part (a), which provides that customary law applicable to any matter before it should not be inconsistent with natural justice or morality or incompatible with any other written law.

Response

The State Party remains committed to upholding Section 12(a) of the Local Courts Act, which mandates that customary law applied in local courts must not conflict with natural justice, morality or other written laws. To this end, the State has continued to build the capacity of local court justices and traditional leaders through training on human rights, gender equality and legal literacy, ensuring that customary practices align with constitutional and statutory protections.

The State Party in collaboration with the Judiciary, the Office of the President, Gender Division, Cabinet Office and Civil Society Organizations, is also supporting community awareness programmes to challenge harmful customary norms and promote practices consistent with human rights principles. These

initiatives aim to ensure that customary law remains a relevant and just system, fully compliant with the State's legal framework and international obligations.

30. Articles 6 and 7: Marriage, Divorce, Separation and Annulment

Recommendations: The GoZ should:

- 30.1** Adopt concrete measures, including of coercive nature, to prevent early marriages, instead of only discouraging it.

Response

The State Party continues to adopt measures aimed at preventing early marriages including the amendment of legislation to strengthen penalties and accountability measures for those complicit in child marriages as highlighted under Article 6.

- 30.2** Adopt measures to ensure that the traditional practice of payment of lobola (dowry) to the bride's parents would not constitute a form of child and/ or forced marriage.

Response

The Government of the Republic of Zambia recognizes the potential link between the traditional practice of lobola (dowry) and the occurrence of child and/or forced marriages. To address this concern, Zambia has strengthened its legal and policy frameworks, including the enforcement of the Marriage Act and the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011, which prohibit early and forced marriages. Additionally, the review of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage aims to enhance the protection of children from harmful traditional practices.

The State Party has implemented community sensitization and dialogue initiatives targeting both the public and traditional leaders. These interventions promote awareness of the harmful effects of commodifying girls through dowry and emphasize the importance of consent in marriage. Through partnerships with traditional leaders under the Chiefdom Declaration framework, efforts are being made to redefine lobola in a way that respects cultural values while upholding the rights of girls and women.

Further, the State party is advancing education and economic empowerment programmes for girls and families to reduce vulnerability to early marriage driven by financial incentives. Community-based child protection systems and law enforcement mechanisms are in place to monitor and respond to child marriage cases. The State remains committed to ensuring that cultural practices align with national laws, constitutional values, and regional human rights obligations.

- 30.3** Ensure that Judicial and non-judicial proceedings that determine, in practice, the division of matrimonial property at the dissolution of the marriage are not discriminatory against women.

Response

The State Party reports that the Matrimonial Causes Act, 2007, is very instructive to the Judicial officers presiding over property settlement matters wherein the Court may make an order to give properties to a woman and/or child.

The State Party Reports that the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015 protects women rights to the use and enjoyment of the matrimonial property acquired during the subsistence of the marriage. The Act provides the following: Section 22 (1), *a woman has, on an equal basis with a man, power to decide and act on all matters relating to marriage and family life, including the same right to: (h) own, acquire, manage, administer, enjoy and dispose of property.*

31. Article 9 - Participation in Political and Decision-Making Process

Recommendation: The GoZ should:

- 31.1** Pursue its efforts to promote women's participation in the political and decision-making process through addressing issues relating to societal attitudes and gender stereotypes, limited access to education and political party structures

Response

The State Party has put in place measures to promote women's participation in the political and decision-making as highlighted under Article 9 of this report.

32. Articles 10 and 11: Right to Peace and protection of women in armed conflicts

Recommendation:

- 32.1** The GoZ should pursue its efforts to develop the UN resolution 1325 National Action Plan.

Response

The State Party appreciates this recommendation and wishes to report that it is currently preparing the National Action Plan.

33. Articles 12 - 17 - Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Article 12: Right to Education and training

Recommendation:

- 33.1** Zambia should continue its efforts to strengthen the rights to education for girls in secondary and higher education, particularly in specific contexts and areas.

Response

The State Party welcomes this recommendation and wishes to report it will remain committed to promoting and protecting the right to education for girls, particularly at secondary and higher levels. Through the implementation of the Free Education Policy, the re-entry policy for adolescent mothers and targeted bursary schemes such as the Keeping Girls in School Programme, the State continues to address financial and social barriers that hinder girls' progression in education.

Special focus is being placed on rural and marginalized areas through the construction of boarding facilities, recruitment of female teachers and provision of menstrual hygiene products to reduce absenteeism. The State Party is also integrating life skills, comprehensive sexuality education and career guidance in schools to empower girls and reduce school dropout rates.

The State Party continues to strengthen legal, policy and institutional frameworks to ensure inclusive, gender-responsive and equitable access to quality education for all girls, in line with its constitutional obligations and regional commitments.

34. Article 14: Right to health

Recommendations:

- 34.1** Amend and update the 1972 Termination of Pregnancy Act that require three medical practitioners to agree on the need for an abortion, to facilitate medical abortion according to Article 14-c of the Maputo Protocol.

Response

The State Party acknowledges the recommendation to amend the Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1972 to align with Article 14(c) of the Maputo Protocol. Currently, discussions around the reviewing of this legislation to address procedural barriers, including the requirement for signatures from three medical practitioners, which poses challenges to timely access, especially in rural areas are underway.

The review process is being informed by public health evidence, human rights standards and ongoing stakeholder consultations. The aim is to facilitate access to safe and legal abortion services, particularly in cases of rape, incest and threats to the health or life of the woman, in line with the State party's regional and international obligations.

- 34.2** Redouble efforts in order to tackle problems relating to the high maternal mortality rate in the country.

Response

The State Party acknowledges the recommendation to intensify efforts to reduce the high maternal mortality rate and reaffirms its commitment to improving maternal health outcomes. In line with national priorities and international obligations, the State party has continued to implement multi-sectoral interventions aimed at addressing the root causes of maternal mortality, including limited access to quality maternal health services, inadequate skilled birth attendance and socio-cultural barriers.

Key interventions include the expansion of maternal and new born health services through increased investment in health infrastructure, recruitment and deployment of skilled health personnel and provision of essential medicines and equipment. The Ministry of Health has scaled up the implementation of the Safe Motherhood Action Groups (SMAGs) and Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) services in rural and underserved areas. In addition, efforts are being made to strengthen referral systems and integrate maternal health into community health structures.

The State Party has in addition prioritised the reduction of maternal deaths through policy reforms and enhanced data systems. The implementation of the Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH&N) Continuum of Care Strategy, as well as the Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) system, has enabled timely identification and response to preventable causes of maternal deaths. The Government remains committed to addressing inequalities in access to maternal health, including through targeted support for adolescent girls, women with disabilities and women in remote areas, in line with the goal of leaving no one behind.

- 34.3** Pursue its efforts to adopt a policy on the access to contraceptives, especially for adolescents.

Response

The State Party remains committed to ensuring adolescents have access to contraceptives as part of broader efforts to improve sexual and reproductive

health and reduce early pregnancies and maternal mortality. The State is finalizing a Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Policy that promotes access to contraceptives in a rights-based and inclusive manner.

In the meantime, access is being guided by existing frameworks such as the National Health Strategic Plan and the RMNCAH&N Continuum of Care Strategy. Youth-Friendly Health Services have been expanded to ensure adolescents receive confidential, respectful and informed care.

Through collaboration with civil society and development partners, the State Party continues to raise awareness and address stigma as well as cultural barriers that limit adolescent access to contraceptives. In addition, the State is also committed to removing any legal and structural obstacles to fully realise the reproductive rights of young people.

35. Article 16: Right to Adequate Housing

Recommendation:

- 35.1 Zambia should continue to give special attention to women in its policies and initiatives to implement the right to housing in the country.

Response

The State Party has put in place affirmative action under which 30 percent of available public land should be allocated to women in conformity with Southern African Development Community's Gender Protocol, however, there is no legal backing to support the Policy.

The State Party welcomes this recommendation and wishes to report its efforts under Article 16.

36. Articles 20-24 - Protection of Specially Protected Groups of Women

Recommendations: The Government should:

- 36.1 Ensure effective implementation of existing measures to adequately protect the rights of widows, in line with the Maputo Protocol, especially those married under customary law and widows subject to cleansing in some rural areas.

Response

The State Party welcomes this recommendation and wishes to report that it will remain committed to protecting the rights of widows in line with Article 20 of the Maputo Protocol. Efforts are ongoing to ensure the effective implementation

of existing legal and policy measures, including the Intestate Succession Act, which safeguards the property and inheritance rights of widows, particularly those married under customary law.

Through community sensitization and legal literacy programmes, the State Party, in partnership with traditional leaders, religious leaders and civil society, is addressing harmful practices such as widow cleansing, which still occur in some rural areas. Engagements with traditional authorities are key to promoting the abandonment of such practices and aligning customary norms with human rights standards.

The State Party remains committed to strengthening legal protection, access to justice and social support for widows, with a focus on rural areas where customary practices are more prevalent.

- 36.2** Consider amending the National Policy on Disability to provide for specific measures to address challenges that women with disabilities face.

Response

The State Party acknowledges the need to strengthen protections for women with disabilities and is committed to promoting their full inclusion and participation in all aspects of society. In this regard, the National Policy on Disability (2015) was reviewed to ensure it is aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), national laws and adequately addresses the intersectional challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities.

The State Party wishes to report that the revised National Policy on Persons with Disabilities includes specific measures to combat discrimination, promote access to inclusive education, inclusive healthcare, economic empowerment and protection from gender-based violence for women with disabilities. The review process was inclusive, involving women with disabilities and their representative organizations to ensure that their lived experiences inform policy reforms.

The State Party remains committed to ensuring that all disability-related policies and programmes are gender-sensitive as well as responsive to the unique barriers faced by women and girls with disabilities.

- 36.3** Adopt measures to strengthen the protection of the rights of women in prison, including pregnant women and nursing mothers.

Response

The State Party remains committed to upholding the rights and dignity of women in correctional facilities, with special attention to pregnant women and nursing

mothers. In line with Section 30 of the Correctional Service Act, the State Party is in the process of issuing a Statutory Instrument to prescribe standards for the provision of care and necessities for this group.

To further strengthen protection, the State Party is in the process of opening the first-ever dedicated Centre for pregnant and nursing mothers in prison, aimed at ensuring a safe and supportive environment. Additionally, the State has allocated special funds to meet the specific needs of this vulnerable populace and improve their access to health care, nutrition and hygiene support while in custody.

These measures reflect the State's commitment to aligning prison conditions with international human rights standards and promoting gender-responsive correctional services.



REOUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

CHAPTER II

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN
CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

PART A:

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

37. ARTICLES 2 & 3: PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION; RIGHT TO EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

1. As reported in the last report, the Constitution of Zambia guarantees non-discrimination and equality before the law for all persons. It requires that all persons are not discriminated against on the grounds listed under Article 23 and that all persons are subject to the same laws and entitled to equal protection under the law. The fundamental principle of equality before the law is enshrined in the Bill of Rights within the Constitution in Article 11.
2. The Children's Code Act, 2022, as one of the country's most progressive statutes, consolidates and modernizes all child-related legal provisions, domesticating the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the CRC. Section 7 of the Act prohibits discrimination against a child based on any ground, including race, colour, sex, gender, disability, origin, or the parent's circumstances. Further, section 121 guarantees equal rights for children born in or out of wedlock, addressing historical gaps in protection.
3. The Human Rights Commission Act, also plays a vital role as an Institution that enforces and monitors non-discrimination. The Commission serves as a watchdog for non-discrimination across all sectors, including employment, policing, health, and child protection. It also investigates complaints from individuals, organizations, or on behalf of groups and marginalized populations, ensures its processes are accessible to all, regardless of education or means—complaints may be oral or written, and can be made by representatives. Further, it maintains a program of public information dissemination on human rights. The independence and extensive powers of the HRC make it central to the realization of Article 2, providing both preventative and corrective mechanisms against arbitrary discrimination.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

4. The State party continues to implement various measures through established institutions such as the Human Rights Commission, Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission and the Gender Division as reported in the last report.

5. Further, the Legal Aid Board, in line with the Legal Aid Act as well as the National Legal Aid Policy of 2018, established to remove economic barriers to justice and enhance access for marginalized groups continues to undertake various awareness activities in order to provide varying legal information on legal provisions for different pieces of Legislation, procedures for obtaining police bond or bail, preparation of documents like Wills and Trusts, interpretation of contracts among others. They are also made aware that the Institution can offer legal representation and the presence of Police and prison desks in selected prisons and police stations with qualified legal officers provided by the institution in collaboration with other stakeholders.

CHALLENGES

6. Notable challenges include:
 - i. Inadequate geographical coverage as the institution is not in all districts.
 - ii. The legal staff is also inadequate to answer to the mandate.
 - iii. The Immigration Department needs increased personnel to adequately tackle illegal migration.
 - iv. The Immigration Department is also faced with budgetary constraints, thereby, hampering its ability to effectively carry out its functions.

38. ARTICLE 4: THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND PERSONAL INTEGRITY

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

7. The State party continues to implement the Constitution of Zambia to guarantee citizen's enjoyment of their rights as stated in the previous report.
8. The State party has taken a further step in ensuring the protection of the right to life by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. The State party has also enacted the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 23 of 2022, to repeal all provisions imposing the death penalty.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

9. The State party wishes to report that it has continued its efforts in community sensitisation on illegal and unsafe abortions, as well as training of clinicians on the standards and guidelines for reducing unsafe abortions, morbidity and mortality in Zambia.

10. The State party reports that all police officers receive mandatory training in human rights law as part of their initial instruction, with particular emphasis on the respect for and protection of the right to life and personal integrity. This measure is intended to ensure that, in the discharge of their functions, law enforcement officials act in full conformity with international human rights standards prohibiting arbitrary deprivation of life.

JUDICIAL MEASURES

11. There are no measures to report on as there have been no reports of deprivation of life without due process of the law.

39. ARTICLE 5: RIGHT TO DIGNITY, PROHIBITION OF TORTURE AND SLAVERY

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

12. The State party wishes to report that the Constitution prohibits torture. In particular, Article 15 of the Constitution provides that “a person shall not be subjected to torture, or to inhuman or degrading punishment or other like treatment”. The challenge which exists is that torture has not yet been criminalised and in the absence of such criminalisation, the offences under the Penal Code are referred to for purposes of prosecution and punishment.
13. Further, the State party wishes to report the Police Public Complaints Authority established under Act Number 18 of 2016 also provides a mechanism through which investigation of complaints against police actions can be initiated.
14. Furthermore, the Prisons Act Chapter 97 of the Laws of Zambia was repealed and replaced by the Zambia Correctional Service Act No.37 of 2021 which domesticated the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).
15. The State party also wishes to report that it is currently finalising the Anti Torture Bill which, among other things, defines torture and criminalises acts of torture committed, inter alia, by persons in authority.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

16. The State party in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders have put in place programs such as Prison Mobile Courts, being implemented by the Judiciary, National Prosecution Authority, Legal Aid Board and other stakeholders, Prison decongestion program being implemented by the Law Association of Zambia. All aimed at decongesting the prisons and correctional centres by expediting disposal of cases.

17. Additionally, all police officers are trained in Human Rights law during their initial and in – service training. This year 2025, the Zambia Police Service has conducted service training for officers with the view of enhancing their capability to adhere to the human rights provisions as provided.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

18. The State party continues to sensitize and train members of staff on aspects of the prisoners' human rights from the perspective of national legislation and international human rights instruments.

19. The State party has continued to put in place measures to decongest overcrowded prisons and correctional centres across the country which include expansion of existing facilities and construction of new ones.

20. Below are the Correctional Centres that were constructed during the period under review:-

S/No	Name of Correctional Centre	Holding Capacity	Status
1.	Mwembeshi Central Correctional Centre	1,800	Completed
2.	Mwembeshi Female Correctional Centre	300	Completed
3.	Mwomboshi Correctional farm	160	Completed
4.	New Nansanga farm	1,600	Yet to be completed

During the period under review, the State party in its continued effort to provide quality health care to inmates, in addition to existing mini hospitals and clinics, established one clinic in Lundazi District and Sick bays at fourteen (14) Correctional facilities where there is neither a hospital nor clinic. Sick-bays have been created for purposes of providing health services to sick inmates. Further, facilities such Correctional farms that have no health facilities and no health staff, provide health services via scheduled outreach activities by health personnel.

Correctional Health Facilities as at 20th July, 2025

Region	Mini Hospitals	Clinics	Sick Bay
Central	01	09	01
Lusaka	01	06	Nil
Copperbelt	Nil	07	02
Southern	01	06	Nil
North Western	Nil	02	Nil
Northern	Nil	04	Nil
Eastern	01	03	01

Region	Mini Hospitals	Clinics	Sick Bay
Muchinga	Nil	01	02
Luapula	Nil	01	04
Western	Nil	02	04
Total	04	41	14

JUDICIAL MEASURES

21. The Courts have begun to hold sittings in Prisons and Correctional Centres through Prison Mobile Courts to dispose of non-contentious cases, such as bail applications, setting of date hearings, sentencing and Judgments so as to quickly dispose of cases.

CHALLENGES

22. The State party continues to face the challenge of overcrowding in prisons and correctional centres mainly as a result of inadequate infrastructure and high crime rates.

40. ARTICLE 6: RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

23. Article 13 of the Constitution of Zambia provides for the right to personal liberty. However, this right to liberty is not absolute as it is subject to the derogation clauses as contained in Article 13(1).

24. Article 13(2) of the Constitution protects persons from being arbitrarily arrested or detained by providing that any person who is arrested or detained shall be informed as soon as reasonably practicable, in a language that he understands, of the reasons for his arrest or detention. Further, Article 13(3) places an obligation on the one depriving a person of that person's liberty to bring that person before a court of law without undue delay and if that person is not tried within a reasonable time, then, without prejudice to any further proceedings that may be brought against him, he shall be released either unconditionally or upon reasonable conditions, including in particular such conditions as are reasonably necessary to ensure that they appears at a later date for trial or for proceedings preliminary to trial. The provision on entitlement to compensation for unlawful detention also prevents arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

25. Section 25 of the Immigration and Deportation Act No. 18 of 2010 gives power to immigration officers to detain suspected prohibited immigrants for not more than 14 days. This is a safeguard against arbitrary arrest.

26. The Criminal Procedure Code Chapter 88 of the Laws of Zambia provides for bail in case of detention. The accused can only be granted bail upon providing a sufficient surety or sureties. Bail is not authorised in cases of murder, aggravated robbery, and violations of narcotics laws. Any bail inquiry must be conducted impartially, judicially, and in accordance with the law.
27. The State party enacted the Legal Aid Act No.1 of 2021 which provides for access to Legal Aid services to persons who do not have the means to pay for legal services. This enables accused persons to have the legal representation needed to enable them to apply for bail, as well as habeas corpus in the event of delay in being brought before a court. The Act allows for such persons to apply to the Legal Aid Board, for the grant of legal aid in a Section 34 of the Act.
28. Further, the Act also provides for the grant of legal aid by the Court, in criminal cases.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

29. The State party has been conducting training of Police officers to adhere to matters relating to police bond and human rights.

41. ARTICLE 7: RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

30. The right to fair hearing is guaranteed under Article 18(1) of the Constitution. It states that 'if any person is charged with a criminal offence, then, unless the charge is withdrawn, the case shall be afforded a fair hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial court established by law.'
31. Article 18 (2) of the Constitution states that every person who is charged with a criminal offence:
 - (a) Shall be presumed to be innocent until he is proved or has pleaded guilty;
 - (b) Shall be informed as soon as reasonably practical in a language that he understands and in detail of the nature of the offence charged;
 - (c) Shall be given adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence;
 - (d) Shall unless legal aid is granted be permitted to defend himself before the court in person or at his own expense by a legal representative of his own choice; and
 - (e) Shall be afforded facilities to examine in person or by his legal representative the witnesses called by the prosecution before the court and to secure the attendance of witnesses to testify on his behalf on the same conditions as those applying to witnesses called by the prosecution; and

- (f) Shall be permitted to have without payment the assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand the language used at the trial of the charge.
32. Article 18 (4) of the Constitution states that no person shall be held to be guilty of a criminal offence on account of any act or omission that did not at the time it took place constitute such an offence and no penalty shall be imposed for any criminal offence that is severer in degree or description than the maximum penalty that might have been imposed for that offence at the time it was committed.
33. Article 18(8) of the Constitution further states that no person shall be convicted of a criminal offence unless that offence is defined and the penalty is prescribed in a written law.
34. In line with Article 118(2) of the Constitution, the principles of judicial authority that guide the courts are:
- (a) justice shall be done to all, without discrimination;
 - (b) justice shall not be delayed;
 - (c) adequate compensation shall be awarded, where payable;
 - (d) alternative forms of dispute resolution, including traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, shall be promoted;
 - (e) justice shall be administered without undue regard to procedural technicalities; and
 - (f) the values and principles of the Constitution shall be protected and promoted.
35. The Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022 makes it mandatory for the Legal Aid Board to be present in court for every child who is in conflict with the law in all matters involving a child save for private briefs as provided in section 72 (3) and section 73 1(b) and (c).
36. The Legal Aid Act No.1 of 2021, supports the right to a fair trial by ensuring access to legal representation for those who cannot afford it. It is designed to uphold this right by:
- (a) Providing legal assistance to indigent persons in criminal, civil, and constitutional matters.
 - (b) Mandating the Legal Aid Board to offer legal services that enable meaningful participation in court proceedings.
37. The Legal Aid Board advocates are defence lawyers in criminal matters before all courts of law, save for private briefs. The institution provides qualified legal personnel to handle the matters before court to completion and in the best interest of the client.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

38. The State party, has updated its Prosecutors Manual which has standard operating procedures. These standards are applied when perusing dockets of cases that are brought to NPA for prosecution. NPA scrutinises evidence on dockets of cases and only cases with sufficient evidence are taken to court.
39. The State party has launched prosecutor's guidelines for the prosecution of Economic and Financial crimes and guidelines for handling Gender and Sexual violence offences. These guidelines have resource materials that have equipped the Prosecutors and this capacitation has reduced the time taken to process dockets for court and ultimately enhances the rights enshrined in Article 18 of the Constitution.
40. The State party has continued recruiting Prosecutors in order to increase the number of prosecutors to enhance access to Justice.
41. Pro Bono Legal Services Scheme (2024): The Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) reinforced its *Pro Bono Legal Services Scheme*, requiring lawyers with three or more years at the Bar, to take up at least one pro bono case per year to renew their practicing certificates. This scheme is to ensure that the right to a fair trial is harnessed.
42. The State party has continued the implementation of the Communication Coordination Cooperation Initiative (CCCI) program which helps enhance access to justice. It is aimed at improving services and access to justice by fostering communication, cooperation, and coordination among various institutions, NGOs, and civil society organizations. The main objective of this initiative is to contribute to the shared effort of all justice agencies to improve the access and delivery of justice in Zambia. This is facilitated by providing a platform for improved communication, coordination and cooperation for the justice stakeholders. The foregoing is achieved through case-by-case reviews, visits to detention centres and correctional facilities and sensitisations.
43. The State party embarked on a project to take access to justice closer to the people by establishing legal desks. It is a mixed legal aid delivery system with complementary legal aid service delivery models. The models are based on cooperation and engagement between state and non-state legal aid service providers which are run by Civil Society Organisations and are supervised by the Legal Aid Board. The unique feature of the initiative is that the services are provided to the vulnerable at the point of need. In this case, the Legal Desks provide legal services through Legal Services Units at the Courts, Police Desk at police stations, Prison Desks at correctional facilities/Prisons and Communities.
44. The provision of free legal aid to members of the public through the legal desks especially for the vulnerable members including women, children, persons with disabilities and

others has been a key milestone for the justice sector. Through these services, people are ultimately assisted in understanding their rights and detainees in remand or in police custody are informed on various procedural issues such as how to apply for bail or police bond among others.

45. To appreciate the extent of the services provided by the Legal Desks, 18,382 clients received legal services from legal services units from January to July 2023 from police legal desks, correction legal desks and community legal desks under 5 provinces (Southern, Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt and Luapula provinces). Out of the total clients about 119 clients were persons with disabilities.

JUDICIAL MEASURES

46. In the case of *George Lipepo and 3 Others v The People, SCZ Appeal No... Judgment No.20 of 2014*, where the appellants were charged with murder and aggravated robbery, the court applied Article 18(2)(d) of the Constitution which provides that: -

“...shall unless legal aid is granted to him in accordance with the law enacted by Parliament for such purpose be permitted to defend himself before the court in person, or at his own expense, by a legal representative of his own choice;...”

47. The Supreme Court in its Judgment held that the above Constitutional provision applied where legal aid is granted, and the suspect must be defended by legal aid counsel at all material times.

CHALLENGES

48. Limited manpower which limits the ability to provide legal services.
49. Limited funding to fully devolve in all 116 districts.
50. Inadequate court infrastructure.

42. ARTICLE 8: FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

51. The predominant religion in the State party is Christianity. The rest of the population comprises Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews and Atheists, *inter alia*.
52. There is a high tolerance level for different religions in the State party. Citizens are given a wide breadth to choose a faith, evangelise, build places of worship and carry out pastoral, fundraising and catechetical work.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

53. Article 4(3) of the Constitution of Zambia states that the State party is a multi-religious nation. Article 19(1) guarantees the freedom of conscience and states that no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of conscience.
54. Article 8 of the Constitution outlines the National Values and Principles which include respect for human dignity, equity, equality and non-discrimination. Article 9 (2) further mandates the President to report on the progress made in the application of these National Values and Principles. This ensures values relating to non-discrimination and implicitly freedom of religion are adhered to.
55. Article 19(3) of the Constitution also gives religious communities or denominations the freedom to provide religious instruction for persons of that particular community or denomination in the course of any education provided by the community or denomination or from establishing and maintaining institutions to provide social services for such persons.
56. Article 19(4) of the Constitution of Zambia prohibits the compelling of a person to take any oath which is contrary to his religion or belief or to take any oath in a manner which is contrary to his religion or belief.
57. To further protect the freedom of conscience, Chapter XIV of the Penal Code Act criminalises acts or conduct infringing on a person's enjoyment of religion.
58. The Societies Act Chapter 119 of the Laws of Zambia sets out the requirements for religious groups to register with the Registrar of Societies. Religious groups and faith-based organisations can apply for a certificate of exemption from paying taxes, which is normally applicable to non-profit making organizations.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

59. The functions of the former Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs have been realigned and placed under the Office of the Vice President according to Gazette Notice No. 1123 of 2021. The mandate remained unchanged that is to promote national values and principles as well as to actualise the declaration of Zambia as a Christian nation while upholding the freedom of conscience for social transformation and sustainable development. The portfolio functions are national guidance, national values, principles, and ethics, interfaith dialogue, public religious celebrations, preservation of religious sites and religious affairs.

43. ARTICLE 9: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND EXPRESSION

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

60. The State party continues to implement the various legislation states in its previous report. In addition, the State party has enacted the Access to Information Act No.24 of 2023, which provides for both proactive and reactive disclosure of information. The Act establishes the Human rights Commission as the oversight body, sets out procedures for requesting and receiving information, and aims to uphold the right to information guaranteed by international conventions. Key provisions include a broad scope, the presumption of disclosure, and the power of the Commission to enforce the law.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

61. The State party has increased the number of platforms through which individuals can express themselves. The number of licensed radio stations has increased to over 100 while television stations have increased to over 50 in the last four years. There are several newspapers and social media platforms that are currently being used for the sole purpose of enabling citizens to exercise their freedom of expression within the confines of applicable laws.

44. ARTICLES 10 AND 11: FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY

62. The Constitution of Zambia continues to safeguard the freedom of association and assembly of its citizens. These freedoms are guaranteed under Articles 20 and 21 of the Constitution.

63. The State party has embarked on the review of the Public Order Act, Chapter 113 of the laws of Zambia as the law was a hinderance to the enjoyment of these freedoms, as well as the freedom of expression, during public assemblies, processions, and other forms of public gatherings, despite the amendments made to the Act. The main goal of this review was to develop a comprehensive legal framework for managing public gatherings that promotes and protects human rights, as well as meets the social and political needs of the Zambian people. The review was completed in 2022, and the State party is in the process of development of Public Gatherings Bill.

64. The State party also has no restriction placed upon the exercise of the right to join and form the trade union of ones' choice. Section 5 of Industrial and Labour Relations Act Chapter 269 of the Laws of Zambia protects the rights of employees to join or form a trade union and to participate in union activities.

65. Additionally, the ministry responsible for labour and social services is mandated to establish Trade Unions by registration as employee representatives at company and sector

levels. The ministry also conducts the ballot as guided by the Representative Bodies (Elections and Conduct of Ballot) Regulations, Statutory Instrument No. 23 of 2008 23 of 2008 to put in place the executive members of the Trade Unions and regulate the Trade Unions operations with regards to ensuring that recognition agreements are entered into for employees that decide to exercise their constitutional right to belong to a Trade Union or form one and that collective agreements are up to date and bargaining is done on time.

66. The State party ensures that trade unions participate effectively in tripartite meetings of the tripartite Consultative Labour Council (TCLC), Skills Advisory Committee and Labour Advisory Committee as social partners.

JUDICIAL MEASURES

67. In 2022, the Zambian High Court reiterated the right of employees to belong to trade unions of their choice in the matter of *Vincent Makondo (Suing as General Secretary of the Judicial and Allied Workers Union of Zambia) v Matildah Chilambwe (Sued in her capacity as General Secretary of the National Union for Judicial Workers) and Others (APP NO.01/2021) [2022] ZMHC 52 (20 July 2022)*. In this case, the Court stated that:

“I have combed through the Industrial and Labour Relations Act and there is no express prohibition against an employee belonging to more than one trade union. To restrict membership to one union can unnecessarily hamper an employee's right to assemble and associate freely. By way of an example, restricting employees to a single trade union would infer that an employee who has two jobs has to surrender one union membership, an unnecessary fetter not sanctioned by statute. It is trite that any restrictions that restrict the exercise of rights and freedoms have to be expressly stated in legislation for them to have the force of law.”

45. ARTICLE 12: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

68. The State party through its Constitution recognizes the right to freedom of movement and residence within its territory. Article 22 of the Constitution enshrines this right by providing that “No citizen shall be deprived of his freedom of movement”. Freedom of movement in the context of the Constitution means the right to move freely throughout Zambia, the right to reside in any part of Zambia and the right to leave Zambia and to return to Zambia.
69. Section 11(1) of the Immigration and Deportation Act provides that every person entering the country must do so at a designated port of entry to ensure that he or she appears before an immigration officer for examination and later admission into the country if one meets all the entry requirements.

70. Section 11(3) of the Immigration and Deportation Act provides that any person who is desirous of residing in Zambia for various reasons such as employment, education and tourism must have the requisite authority in form of valid days or permits. Persons with authority to reside in Zambia are at liberty to remain in the country so long as their permits are valid and they are compliant with the laws of the Country. The Passport Act No. 28 of 2016, also controls the issuance and revocation of passports and travel documents.
71. As regards the expulsion of non-nationals, the Immigration and Deportation Act provides for lawful procedures, including the right to a fair hearing, before a deportation order to deport illegal immigrants can be executed.
72. The State party has not conducted mass expulsions based on national, racial, ethnic or religious groups.

INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY MEASURES

73. The State party, through the Immigration Department and the office of the Commissioner for Refugees, implements migration and asylum Policies. Further, the State party has adopted the National Refugee Policy (2023), which aims to improve refugee protection and integration while respecting national interests.
74. In addition, institutions such as the National Human Rights Commission monitor the enforcement of human rights, including the rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

CHALLENGES

75. While the State party has made significant strides in aligning national laws with international human rights standards, challenges remain, particularly in:
- i. enhancing the capacity of border management officials to uphold rights-based approaches and;
 - ii. strengthening mechanisms for legal aid and appeal processes for asylum seekers and migrants facing deportation.
76. This notwithstanding, the State party continues to collaborate with stakeholders, including UNHCR, IOM, and civil society, to address these gaps and improve compliance with Article 12 of the Charter.

46. ARTICLE 13: RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

77. The Constitution remains unchanged since the last Report, the provisions and analysis outlined in the previous Report continue to apply.
78. The State party remains resolute in guaranteeing the right to freely participate in government through regular, free, and fair elections conducted on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, under Article 45(1) of the Constitution. The State party seeks to review the Constitution under the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Bill No. 7 of 2025. The State party proposes among others to; increase National Assembly constituency seats from 156 to 211, introduce a mixed-member proportional representation system for women, youth, and persons with disabilities, and revise nomination and vacancy procedures.
79. The Electoral Process Act was amended in 2021 by the Electoral Process (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2021, to provide for voting rights for persons in prisons and limitations on announcing election results by unauthorized persons.
80. The enactment of the Public Protector Act establishes a statutory framework for the investigation and resolution of grievances arising from maladministration within the public sector. The Act mandates the State party to uphold the principles of good governance and enhance public service delivery through rigorous oversight and accountability mechanisms.
81. Section 6(d) of the Act, empowers the State party to initiate investigations and issue recommendations in respect of complaints alleging human rights violations linked to maladministration. The State party may act on such matters where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the conduct in question constitutes maladministration.
82. Section 6(i) of the Act, further mandates the State party to promote public awareness regarding administrative justice, including policies and procedures governing public administration. This provision imposes a duty on the State party to educate the public on their rights and the available mechanisms for seeking redress.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

83. The State party has a wide range of policies and programs aimed at enhancing access to justice and reinforcing administrative accountability. These include:
- i. Public education campaigns designed to inform citizens of their rights and the functions of oversight institutions;

- ii. Standardized complaint-handling procedures and institutional monitoring frameworks to ensure transparency and responsiveness;
 - iii. Strategic engagement with civil society organisations and community-based groups to foster awareness of maladministration and encourage participatory governance; and
 - iv. Outreach initiatives targeting remote and underserved areas to ensure equitable access to information and redress mechanisms.
84. The State party is also implementing the 2024 National Youth Policy aimed at promoting youth civic engagement at all levels and participation in leadership. It also seeks to strengthen legislation that guarantees youth representation at various decision-making bodies. The Policy also integrates gender equity and disability in youth development and promotes the participation of female youth in national development as well as promote reasonable accommodation and access to assistive devices for youth with disabilities.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

85. The State party has established the Office of the Public Protector which undertakes inter-agency collaboration with other oversight bodies such as the Human Rights Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission, to promote institutional accountability and good governance. The Office has also established toll-free communication lines to facilitate public access to services and enable the reporting of maladministration, unfair treatment, and deficient service delivery without financial or logistical barriers.
86. To enhance accessibility and operational efficiency, the State party has decentralized the office of the Public Protector to provincial offices. This decentralization aims to expedite the investigation process and ensure timely resolution of complaints and strengthen responsiveness to grievances from diverse geographic regions. Public awareness campaigns are also conducted through radio broadcasts, community meetings, and dissemination of informational materials to educate citizens on their rights and the role of the Public Protector in safeguarding those rights.
87. The State party remains committed to promoting administrative justice and upholding the rule of law by ensuring that public institutions are held accountable and that citizens have access to effective redress mechanisms.
88. In a bid to strengthen citizen engagement and improve service delivery, the Zambian government unveiled the Citizen Support Services Portal. This innovative online platform enables citizens to report issues, request assistance, and track the status of their requests in real-time. The portal, developed by the Electronic Government Division (SMART Zambia Institute), aims to bridge the gap between citizens and the government, promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency in service delivery.

89. The State party has emphasised that the Citizen Support Portal acts as a bridge between government and its citizens as it is designed to enhance communication, feedback, and citizen engagement, thereby promoting transparency and accountability.

CHALLENGES

90. The State party continues to encounter significant challenges in the effective execution of its mandate. These include:
- i. Insufficient financial and human resources, which constrain operational capacity; and
 - ii. Limited public awareness of the office's role and functions, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS

91. *Chapter One Foundation v Zambian Information and Communications Technology Authority*

Case Summary and Outcome:

On March 21, 2022, the High Court for Zambia at Lusaka issued a consent judgment, confirming that the (ZICTA) would not “do any act or make any omission outside of their legal regulatory powers and authority which may inhibit or interrupt the flow of and uninhibited access to information on all available telecommunication platforms under their control and/or regulation where the interest of consumers and their consumer and constitutional rights are threatened”. ZICTA also consented to informing the public within 36 hours of any disruptions of the reason for that interruption.

CHALLENGES

92. There is a need to create an enabling environment and mechanisms allowing for youth participation at subnational and local level. The 2021 General Elections saw a high turnout among youth voters, with the Election Commission of Zambia (ECZ) estimating that over 50% of the total voters were below the age of 35. While the youth fully participated as voters, very few were actually involved in the aspiration for leadership positions and roles. For instance, as of 2023 only one (1) Member of Parliament (MP) was below 35 years out of 156 representing a proportion of youths in Parliament of 0.7 percent. Youth at Mayoral and Council Chairpersons level were at 12.9 percent and youth Councillors at 7.6 percent respectively.
93. The low representation of youth in the political dispensation of the State party requires urgent attention and needs to be addressed by putting in place measures that will promote their full participation.

47. ARTICLE 14: RIGHT TO PROPERTY

94. The right to property shall be guaranteed. It may only be encroached upon in the interest of public need or in the general interest of the community and in accordance with the provisions of appropriate laws.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

95. As highlighted in the previously submitted report, the right to property in Zambia is protected under various legal frameworks, including the Constitution, the Lands Act (Chapter 184), the Lands and Deeds Registry Act (Chapter 185), the Lands Acquisition Act (Chapter 189), the Intestate Succession Act (Chapter 59), and the Wills and Administration of Testate Estates Act (Chapter 60) of the Laws of Zambia. The Constitution explicitly recognizes and safeguards the property rights of all individuals, prohibiting arbitrary deprivation of property. It further affirms the dual land tenure system, preserving both customary and private (leasehold) tenure. Statutory land is regulated by written law, while customary land is administered by traditional authorities in accordance with unwritten, localized customary norms.

96. The compulsory acquisition of land in the State party is governed by Article 16(1) of the Constitution and the Lands Acquisition Act. Article 16(1) stipulates that no person shall be compulsorily deprived of property, or of any interest or right over property, except under the authority of an Act of Parliament. Such legislation must provide for the payment of adequate compensation for the property, interest, or right that is to be acquired.

97. Section 3 of the Lands Acquisition Act empowers the President to compulsorily acquire any property, of any kind, if he considers such acquisition desirable or expedient in the interest of the Republic. Section 10 further provides that, in lieu of or in addition to monetary compensation, the President may offer the dispossessed person a grant of alternative land, provided that the value of the replacement land does not exceed that of the property acquired.

98. The Zambia Development Agency Act No. 17 of 2022 safeguards the property rights of investors. Section 5(d) of the Act mandates the Zambia Development Agency to assist investors in obtaining permissions, authorizations, licences, bonded status, land, and any other requirements from relevant State institutions necessary for establishing or operating a business. This provision ensures that investors have adequate access to land and the necessary support to facilitate business operations within the State Party.

99. The Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 3 of 2015 empowers district councils to act as agents of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, with the responsibility for land use planning at the district level, including zoning. The Act also establishes principles, standards, and requirements for the development, planning, and administration of urban

and regional planning processes and systems. Additionally, it provides a framework for the formulation, implementation, and management of urban and regional planning policies and programmes within the state party.

100. The State party is also in the process of enacting a Housing Act to coordinate housing development, regulate the sector, and promote access to housing finance. In addition, the National Housing Authority Act is under review to strengthen sector regulation and improve inter-agency coordination.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

101. Vision 2030 reaffirms the State party's commitment to ensuring that the people of Zambia enjoy the right to property. It is aimed at the equitable distribution of wealth in a society whose members have property rights.
102. The 8NDP reaffirms the State Party's commitment to the protection of property rights and places particular emphasis on land reforms, recognizing land as a critical factor of production and a foundation for national development. The 8NDP aims to strengthen land management and administration systems to enhance transparency, efficiency, and equitable access to land.
103. To fully operationalise the National Lands Policy of 2021, a review of various laws related to land management will be carried out to enhance equitable access to land. These efforts aim to improve productivity across the country and promote fairness in the distribution of productive resources. Furthermore, the decentralisation of land registration to provincial centres and the digitisation of the land title issuance process will improve the efficiency and transparency of land administration.
104. Further, the State party continues to implement the National Housing Policy (2020–2024) which provides the framework for sustainable housing development and mechanisms for ensuring efficient use of resources in order to address poverty alleviation and promote socio-economic development. In line with this Policy:
 - i. The State party has developed a National Housing Programme to guide the systematic delivery of decent and affordable housing, with a focus on the most vulnerable.
 - ii. Building standards are being reviewed to allow for alternative, cost-effective materials to improve affordability and access to decent shelter.
 - iii. Partnerships with private developers, financial institutions, and international partners have been expanded to mobilize financing for housing projects.

105. The State party has also commenced formulation of a National Urban Policy to integrate housing delivery with basic service provision and sustainable urban growth.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

106. The Ministry responsible for lands is mandated to administer and manage land matters through various departments and institutions, including the Lands Department, Lands and Deeds Department, Lands Tribunal, Survey Department, and Survey Control Board. To facilitate land titling and improve service delivery, the State party launched the Zambia Integrated Land Administration System (ZILAS) on 13th September 2024. As part of the broader digitalisation agenda, ZILAS aims to enhance the State party data management capabilities, thereby improving the accuracy, reliability, and completeness of land administration information. Additionally, the system is designed to reduce errors and discrepancies in land ownership records and to ensure that all stakeholders have access to up-to-date information on services provided by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.
107. The State party's 116 district councils have authority to administer land within their districts and are responsible for land-use planning, in coordination with the Town and Country Planning Department as guided by the Urban and Regional Planning Act. The district councils process applications for leases of state land and evaluate requests for the conversion of customary land to state land.
108. Customary land in the State party is administered by local traditional leaders, including chiefs and village headmen, who hold authority under both statutory and customary law. These leaders are responsible for overseeing customary land and safeguarding the cultural and social welfare of their communities. Their roles include granting occupancy and use rights, supervising land transfers, regulating access to common-pool resources (such as grazing areas and thatching grass), and adjudicating land-related disputes.
109. The State party has mandated the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development to create and supervise housing policy, while local authorities are responsible for planning at the city and district level. Beneficiaries for social housing and special needs housing are identified in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services. Programmes currently under implementation include:
- i. Construction of 50 housing units in Western, Central, Southern, and Eastern Provinces.
 - ii. Construction of 50 houses in Luangwa for vulnerable households.
 - iii. Construction of four homes for the aged in Chinsali, Mongu, Choma, and Ndola.

110. These initiatives are part of the broader implementation of the National Housing Policy and contribute to the progressive reduction of the national housing deficit

48. ARTICLE 15: RIGHT TO WORK, EQUITABLE AND SATISFACTORY CONDITIONS OF WORK AND EQUAL PAY FOR WORK

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

111. The Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019, guides that an employer shall promote equal opportunity in employment and eliminate discrimination in an undertaking. An employer shall not, in any employment policy or discriminate directly or indirectly, against an employee or a prospective employee on grounds of colour, nationality, tribe or place of origin, language, race, social origin, religion, belief, conscience political or other opinion, sex, gender, pregnancy, marital status, ethnicity, family responsibility, disability, status, health, culture or economic grounds; and in respect of recruitment, training, promotion, terms and conditions of employment, termination of employment or other matters arising out of the employment. Further, the State party has promulgated the following Statutory Instruments to protect the rights of workers:
- i. The Minimum Wages and Conditions of Employment (Truck and Bus Drivers) Order, 2020
 - ii. The Minimum Wages and Conditions of Employment (Truck and Bus Drivers) (Amendment) Order, 2022
 - iii. The Employment Code (Minimum Wages and Conditions of employment) (General) Order, 2023
 - iv. The Employment Code (Domestic Workers Minimum Wages and Conditions of Employment) Order, 2023
 - v. The Employment Code (Shop Workers Minimum Wages and Conditions of Employment) Order, 2023.
112. The Industrial and Labour Relations Act, specifically Section 108, prohibits discrimination in employment. The Act provides that no employer shall terminate the services of an employee or impose any other penalty or disadvantage any employee, on grounds of race, sex, marital status, religion, political opinion or affiliation, tribal extraction or status of the employee.
113. On technical and vocational guidance and training programmes, the State party has continued implementing TEVET Act No.13 of 1998 and Amendment Act No. 11 of 2005 to provide among others, vocational and Entrepreneurship training and regulation of all institutions providing technical education, vocational and entrepreneurship training.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

114. The State party has developed a National Occupational Safety and Health Policy, in line with Convention No. 187, to harmonize inspection services, occupational health surveillance, training and enforcement actions. The policy emphasizes prevention, worker participation and integration of OSH into national development strategies.
115. Through these measures, the State party has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring that workplaces are monitored and hazards are controlled, thereby ensuring safe and healthy working environments promoted for all sectors of the economy with exception of the informal sector.
116. The State party is in the process of reviewing the Decent Work Country Programme 2020-2022 and the 2018 National Employment and Labour Market Policy (NELMP). This has been necessitated by the changes in labour and employment landscape, some global shifts such as technology, platform economy as well as the need to align it to the aspirations outlined in the 8National Development Plan.
117. The State party is reviewing the 2019 National Employment and Labour Market Policy to align to the Vision 2030 and evolving labour market trends to promote decent work and economic growth.
118. The State party has come up with a Cash for Work (CFW) programme. It is a state-led social protection programme aimed at providing temporary employment opportunities to vulnerable households affected by the drought during the 2023/2024 farming season. This initiative has been extended into 2025, reflecting its ongoing commitment to support those in need. Under the CFW programme, beneficiaries receive cash payments in exchange for their labour on community-based public works projects. The initiative was designed to stimulate local economic activity and enhance the maintenance of community infrastructure, thereby fostering resilience within the community. The implementation of the CFW programme is managed by local authorities across 87 identified districts and 123 constituencies. In 2025, the programme was further expanded to encompass all districts, ensuring that a broader segment of the population can benefit from this vital initiative.

OTHER MEASURES

119. In order to protect workers against arbitrary termination of employment, the State party has directed that all employers must put in place the disciplinary code of conduct and other policies that guide the conduct of workers in the work environment. The policy provides guidance on the termination of employment. Enforcement of these policies is done through routine Labour inspections.

120. The State party has developed a National Strategy on Extension of Social Security Coverage to the Informal Economy (2023-2027). The strategy provides measures to address various contingencies and risks faced by workers in the informal economy and these include old age, employed injury and disease, social health insurance, invalidity, survivorship, paternity and maternity protection.
121. The State party has taken several measures in line with the ILO four pillars of decent work which include social protection, rights at work, social dialogue and employment opportunities. To address informal employment and guarantee workers' rights and minimum standards of work conditions, the State party has taken the following measures:
- i. encourage informal workers to formalize their businesses or employment through registration, licensing, and tax incentives.
 - ii. extend social protection programs, such as health insurance, pension schemes, and unemployment benefits, to informal workers.
 - iii. labour Law Reform to cover informal workers, ensuring minimum wage, safe working conditions, and protection from exploitation.
 - iv. provide training and capacity-building programs for informal workers to enhance their skills and productivity.
 - v. provide access to finance and credit facilities for informal workers to help them formalize and grow their businesses.
 - vi. support worker organisations and trade unions to represent and advocate for informal workers' rights.
 - vii. strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with labour laws and regulations in the informal sector.
 - viii. raise public awareness about the importance of formalizing employment and protecting workers' rights through radio/television programmes and social platforms.
122. The State party is confident that implementation of these measures will ensure that informal workers enjoy decent work conditions, social protection, and respect for their rights.
123. According to the 2023 labour force survey, the employed population of persons aged 15 years and older that were employed was 3,980,733 of which 2,382,728 were male and 1,598,005 were females.

Number and percentage distribution of employed population by sex and rural/urban

Rural/Urban	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,980,733	100	2,382,728	100.0	1,598,005	100.0

Rural/Urban	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rural	1,470,525	36.9	920,734	38.6	549,791	34.4
Urban	2,510,208	63.1	1,461,994	61.4	1,048,214	65.6

Unemployment

124. According to the 2023 labour force survey, there were 540,728 unemployed persons of which 310,478 were male and 230,250 were female.

Table: Number and Percent Distribution of Unemployed Persons by Sex and Rural/Urban.

Rural/Urban	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	540,728	100.0	310,478	100.0	230,250	100.0
Rural	150,253	27.8	98,754	31.8	51,499	22.4
Urban	390,475	72.2	211,724	68.2	178,751	77.6

Time Related Underemployment

125. According to the 2023 labour force survey, there were 275,735 persons in time-related underemployment of which 157,434 were male and 118,301 were female.

Table: Number and Percent Distribution of Time Related Underemployment by Sex and Rural/Urban.

Rural/Urban	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	275,735	100.0	157,434	100.0	118,301	100.0
Rural	102,710	37.2	65,418	41.6	37,292	31.5
Urban	173,025	62.8	92,016	58.4	81,009	68.5

126. The total number of workers in the formal sector was estimated at 1,109,592 in 2022, and 1,190,573 in 2023. Notably, private sector employees accounted for 65.5 percent of the workforce in 2022 and 63.4 percent in 2023. Between 2022 and 2023, a total of 80,980 workers were recruited across various sectors, with 45,413 positions filled in the public sector and 35,567 in the private sector. These numbers underscore the active recruitment efforts in response to labour market demands and economic recovery post-pandemic. According to the 2022, and 2023, employment and earnings inquiry, the average earning was K6,960 in 2022, and K7,731 in 2023. The highest average earnings were among those under the Professional, scientific and technical activities in 2022, at K15,512 while those under the Mining and quarrying sector had the average earnings in 2023, at K14,182.

Table: Average Earnings (ZMW) by Industry, 2022 and 2023

Industrial Economic Sector	In Zambian Kwacha	
	2022	2023
Total	6,960	7,731
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,508	3,746
Mining and quarrying	11,084	14,182
Manufacturing	4,612	7,201
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	12,876	13,607
Water supply sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	4,424	7,813
Construction	4,867	4,935
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	3,895	4,165
Transportation and storage	6,380	5,755
Accommodation and food service activities	3,714	3,955
Information and communication	6,661	6,854
Financial and insurance activities	9,476	11,108
Real estate Activities	8,555	8,279
Professional, scientific and technical activities	15,512	12,262
Administrative and support services	4,925	6,032
Public administration (Central Government and Local Government)	10,267	9,058
Education	9,249	9,790
Human health and social work	9,663	8,567
Arts, entertainment and recreation	4,022	4,369
Other service activities	6,155	6,176
Activities of household as employers	2,695	3,419

CHALLENGES

- i. Insufficient financial and human resources hinder labour law enforcement leading to low levels of compliance to Labour laws.
- ii. Lack of necessary skills and job experience to enhance employability among women and youths leading to limited employment opportunities for women, youths and persons with disabilities.
- iii. Skills/Educational mismatch especially among youths leading to the hard-to-fill vacancies in specialized industries where most of the employment opportunities are present.

- iv. Lack of support services for youths to get support services on how to navigate the labour market.
 - v. Lack of mechanisms to monitor employment conditions for most of the informal sector workers due to the nature of the sector.
127. Further, due to the nature of informal employment, work arrangements that are not formally recognized or regulated by the government, and often lack social protections and benefits. The challenges faced with informal employment include:
- i. Lack of formal contracts: Workers may not have written contracts or formal agreements.
 - ii. Lack of social security benefits: Workers may not have access to benefits like health insurance, pension, or unemployment benefits.
 - iii. Job security: Workers may be employed on a casual or temporary basis, with no guarantee of continued employment.
 - iv. Low pay and poor working conditions: Informal workers may face low wages, long working hours, and poor working conditions due to lack of bargaining power.
 - v. Limited access to labour protections: Informal workers may not have access to labour protections, such as minimum wage laws, occupational health and safety regulations, and dispute resolution mechanisms.
 - vi. Lack of mechanisms to monitor employment conditions for most of the informal sector workers due to the nature of the sector.

49. ARTICLE 16: RIGHT TO THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF HEALTH

128. The State party has taken a number of actions and developed strategies aimed at reducing inequalities and improving access to healthcare.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

129. The Health Professions Act No.17 of 2024 - provides fundamental changes from the previous and repealed regulatory framework, the Health Professions Act, 2009 aiming to enhance the quality-of-service delivery in Zambia's health sector. By continuing and redefining the role of the Health Professions Council of Zambia (HPCZ), enhancing education and professional standards, and promoting coordination effort, the Act is poised to improve healthcare quality and greater transparency in the health sector.
130. Tropical Disease Research Centre Act, Chapter 301, repealed and replaced by the National Health Research Institute Act No.13 of 2024. The Act provides a legal basis

for health research and supporting public health response. The Act broadens the scope to encompass comprehensive health research, reflecting the evolution of health challenges and research needs over time.

131. The Mental Health Act No. 6 of 2019 – The state continued to observe the guidance of the Act to provide for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with mental illness, mental impairment or mental disability.
132. The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council Act No. 10 of 2002 established the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council with a responsibility to coordinate Council and support the development, monitoring and evaluation of the multi-sectoral national response for the prevention and combating of the spread of HIV, AIDS, STI and TB in order to reduce the personal, social and economic impacts of HIV, AIDS, STI and TB.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

133. The right to quality health is a cornerstone of human dignity and well-being. With a population of about 20 million, Zambia aspires to have a healthy population by 2030 as espoused in the national Vision 2030. Though the right to health remains absent from Zambia's Bill of Rights, this omission has not stifled efforts to ensure that the entire population has access to quality and affordable healthcare services. Zambia has demonstrated its commitment to advancing health equity through its alignment with international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among these is SDG 3, "Good Health and Well-Being," which underscores the imperative of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
134. The 8NDP prioritizes health and equitable access to quality healthcare services, while the Health Financing Strategy (HFS) 2017-2027 provides the roadmap for sustainable and equitable funding for the health sector. The National Health Strategic Plan (NHSP) 2017-2021 marked a turning point in strengthening the country's healthcare system and improving health outcomes. Strategic efforts to strengthen integrated health systems for achieving SDG 3 and UHC targets have focused on improving the health workforce in numbers, quality, and equity, alongside enhancing the procurement and supply of essential medicines and supplies.
135. The State party has made progress in ensuring that all individuals and communities access quality healthcare services without suffering financial hardship. The State party's progress in this regard is embodied in the establishment of the National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) under the National Health Insurance Act of 2018. NHIMA, represents a significant step towards affordable and inclusive healthcare for all, operationalizing the global agenda of "*leaving no one behind.*" The operationalization of the National Health Insurance Act birthed the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), which was operationalized in 2019, and managed by NHIMA.

136. Universal Health Coverage in Zambia has shown progress, evidenced by higher enrolment rates of members. NHIMA was designed to ensure UHC, address health financing challenges and ensure an increase in access to quality health services, thereby contributing to the country's economic agenda by providing a healthy and productive workforce. Since its inception, the enrolment rates for NHIMA have increased significantly. In 2022, the membership stood at 1.6 million members and had grown to 4.6 million members by June 2024. This remarkable 187.5% increase in membership over two years highlights the rapid expansion and growing impact of the NHIS in advancing universal health coverage and ensuring financial protection for Zambians. However, this shows that a vast majority of the population is not covered by the scheme.
137. Decentralization of Health services - The State party has continued to strengthen the decentralization of health service delivery as a strategy to improve equity and access, particularly in underserved communities and rural areas. Through devolving planning, budgeting, and decision-making authority to provincial and district health offices, resources are more effectively allocated to local needs. This approach has facilitated the establishment and upgrading of health facilities closer to communities, improved supply chain management for essential medicines, and enhanced community participation in health governance. Special emphasis is placed on extending primary healthcare services to marginalized populations, thereby reducing disparities in service access and health outcomes.
138. National Health Strategic Plan 2022-2026 - The National Health Strategic Plan (2022–2026) serves as the overarching framework guiding the country's health sector priorities with the aim of achieving universal health coverage and reducing health inequalities. The Plan outlines evidence-based interventions targeting maternal and child health, infectious and non-communicable diseases, and health system strengthening. Strategies include scaling up community health worker programmes, expanding health infrastructure, increasing the availability of skilled health personnel, and integrating digital health solutions for remote service delivery. Equity-focused budgeting and targeted interventions for hard-to-reach populations remain central to the Plan's implementation, ensuring that no one is left behind.
139. National Adolescent Health Strategic Plan (2022-2026) - The National Adolescent Health Strategic Plan (2022–2026) specifically addresses the unique health needs and vulnerabilities of adolescents, with a focus on reducing inequalities in access to age-appropriate and youth-friendly services. The Plan prioritizes sexual and reproductive health education, mental health support, nutrition, prevention of substance abuse, and the reduction of adolescent pregnancies. It promotes the integration of adolescent health services into primary healthcare, strengthens school health programmes, and enhances outreach to marginalized youths, including those in rural and peri-urban

- areas. The strategy also fosters adolescent participation in health decision-making processes, ensuring that services are responsive to their needs and realities.
140. The HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Policy of 2005 provides the requisite framework for informing and guiding various stakeholders in the quest to contribute to the fight against HIV, AIDS, STI, TB and other opportunistic infections. The individual and collective actions against HIV/AIDS/STI/TB is guided by the “Three Ones” principle (i.e. one national strategic plan, one national coordinating body and one monitoring and evaluation plan).
 141. The Zambia Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (ZAMPHIA) conducted in 2021 shows the progress made in the HIV Response and guides policy direction and strategic planning for the response to the HIV epidemic.
 142. The revised Community Management of HIV and AIDS, TB, Gender and Human Right Coordination Tool Kit for Local Authorities launched in 2023 aims at aligning the institutionalisation of the multi-sectoral community management of HIV and AIDS, TB, Gender and human rights within the decentralised functions of the local authorities.
 143. The National AIDS Strategic Framework (NASF) 2023-2027 provides an opportunity for the country’s national multi-sectoral HIV response to evolve towards adopting more effective socially inclusive and cost-effective interventions to prevent new infections and acquire better AIDS management for optimal health for all.
 144. The People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0 Zambia Study Report for 2023 generates evidence on stigma and discrimination experienced by PLHIV in Zambia to influence policy action.
 145. The HIV Response Sustainability Roadmap Part A developed in 2024 outlines the Zambia-led path for achieving the global AIDS targets for 2025, ending AIDS by 2030 and sustaining the impact of those achievements beyond 2030.
 146. The Minimum Package for HIV Service Delivery harmonises HIV services across the country and ensure local sustainability of the response.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

147. In promoting wellness and improving the health status of the people, the State party has continued to prioritize allocations towards essential medicines and medical supplies. The continued response to the drug shortages in health facilities is reflected by the upward trend in budget allocations. In the 2025 budget, the allocation for the procurement of essential drugs and medical supplies was K5 billion.

148. As a result of the increasing budget towards essential medicines and medical supplies, Zambia has surpassed the benchmarks in stock availability of essential medicines and medical supplies. While the budget allocation towards drugs remains slightly the same as 2024, drug stock levels have increased to 85% at health centres and 76% at the hospital level, up from 37% and 46% in 2021[1]. These significant improvements exceed the World Health Organization’s recommended threshold of 70% and reflect government’s commitment in addressing historic challenges in drug stock availability using a three- tiered approach, which included bulk procurement. By 2026, the State party has set an ambitious goal of 90% drug stock availability, thus demonstrating proactive commitments by the country to ensure consistent supply of medicines. While drug stock availability improves, challenges still exist in accessibility at facility level, such as logistical, distribution and inventory challenges.

Financial and Human Resources in the Health Sector

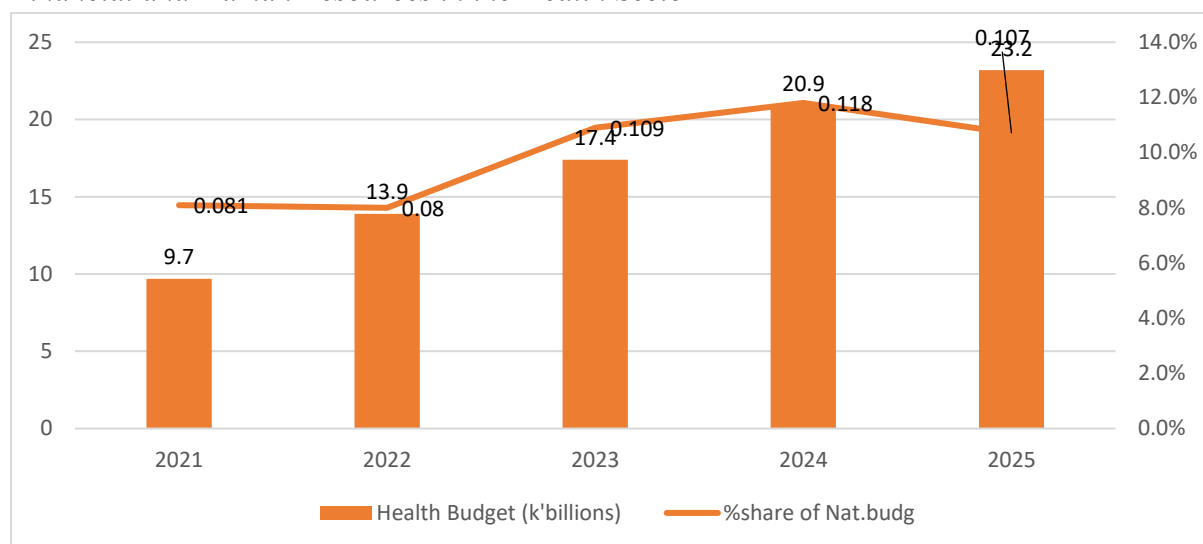


Figure 1 Health budget as a share of national budget

149. The State party continued with the prioritisation of the health sector as a key social sector. In 2025, the national budget has allocated K21.5 billion to the Ministry of Health representing a nominal increase of 15% from 18.7 billion in 2024. While the allocation to the Ministry has increased in nominal terms, it has slightly reduced as share of total national budget to 10% in 2025 from 11% in 2024. Although these improvements are worth acknowledging, it is important to note that the 2025 health budget moves the country away from the Abuja Declaration commitment of 15% of national budget towards health. This could also hinder the country’s efforts of achieving universal healthcare. Other noteworthy budget lines within the Ministry include, K5 billion designated for essential medicines and medical supply, K2 billion for health infrastructure, K718 million for medical equipment and, K156.9 million for recruitment of health personnel – these have largely stayed within the MTBP projections.

150. To increase access to quality health care services, and ensure adequate and equitable availability of health services, prioritization has also been given to infrastructure development under primary care services, the allocation for Infrastructure Development continues to witness substantial boosts in funding from 2023, indicating a strong emphasis on expanding and enhancing various infrastructural projects. Key projects include the construction and completion of health facilities across the country. Further, to reduce maternal mortality, 123 maternal annexes have been constructed across the country with skilled personnel. As at June, 2024, 82 percent of deliveries were conducted by skilled personnel. In 2025, the target is to have 82 percent of deliveries conducted by skilled personnel.
151. The Zambia National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA): 2019-2021 identifies gaps and priorities and enables the State party to better allocate the resources and close the gap between underserved communities. It further shows the combined efforts towards eliminating AIDS and Tuberculosis by 2030.
152. The State party continued to implement the Provider Initiated Testing and Counselling (PITC). As at May, 2025, 1,400,00 people were living with HIV in Zambia out of which 60,000 children. Further, 95% of people living with HIV know their status, 98% of people living with HIV were on treatment and 98% of people who living with HIV have suppressed the viral load.
153. The State party has introduced Triple Elimination of Mother-To-Child transmission (e-MTCT) of HIV, Syphilis and Viral hepatitis B. About 47,000 HIV/AIDS infected pregnant women receive anti-retroviral treatment (ART), under the prevention of vertical transmission.
154. The State party has continued to enhance treatment access to Antiretroviral Therapy including the introduction of oral and injectable (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).
155. The Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) models accommodate PLHIV to access treatment through Community models such as Community-Based Antiretroviral Groups (CAGs) and Multi-Drug dispensation strategies.
156. The State party adopted the use of a multifaceted approach including the use of social media and community radio stations to disseminate HIV information as well as translated HIV and AIDS materials in various languages and formats to cater for persons with disabilities. It also developed the Social Behaviour Change Strategy and launched the National Adolescent Health Strategic plan 2022-2026.

CHALLENGES

157. Although the State party has made great strides in the realisation of the right to health, it is yet to achieve the vision of 'bringing health services as close to the family as possible.
158. Additionally, in the last recruitment only 4 people specializing in mental health were recruited. This notwithstanding, the State party remains committed to the recruitment of required health personnel.
159. Unmet needs exist particularly around adolescents and young people (AYP) and women. Only 73% of young people aged 15-24 were aware of their HIV status. However, among those that were aware, a large majority were on treatment, 98%; suggesting that AYP have access and are willing to engage in treatment provided they know their status.
160. HIV incidence was significantly higher among women than men and prevalence was higher in most age groups. The highest incidence groups by sex and age were women aged 15-24 and 25-34.
161. Very few children are on treatment and research evidence has shown that new infections arise from breast feeding women who seroconvert.

50. ARTICLE 17: RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND CULTURE

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

162. The State party continues to implement the various legislative provisions highlighted in its previous report.
163. Further, the State party through various institutions ensures protection of morals and traditional values recognized by the State. It manages effectively the collaboration with stakeholders on the promotion of worthwhile customs and traditions in order to preserve national culture and identity. Article 8 of the Constitution lists morality and ethics among the national values. Further, Article 173 outlines the guiding values and principles of the public service that include maintenance and promotion of the highest standards of professional ethics and integrity.
164. The Penal Code Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia provides for offences against morality that ensure protection of morals recognised by the community. The Chiefs Act Chapter 287 of the Laws of Zambia empowers the chief to discharge the traditional functions of the office under African customary law in so far as the discharge of such functions is not contrary to the Constitution, or any written law and

is not repugnant to natural justice or morality. This provision ensures protection of traditional values recognised by the community.

165. The State party is committed to upholding the right to education and culture by enacting laws and policies that empower local authorities to take decisive action. Key initiatives include: The Local Government Act No. 2 of 2019 that empowers local authorities to plan and implement development projects, encompassing both educational and cultural initiatives. Additionally, the National Decentralisation Policy shifts decision-making authority closer to the communities, which enables local governments to prioritise and tailor education and cultural programmes to meet the specific needs of their constituents. Finally, the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Act No. 1 of 2024 provides local authorities with the legal framework to allocate funds specifically for enhancing school infrastructure, establishing libraries, and developing cultural centres. Through these measures, the State party fosters an environment where local authorities can effectively champion the rights to education and culture, ultimately enriching the lives of community members.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

166. The State party implements these laws through a range of local structures and programmes designed to enhance educational and cultural development:
- i. Ward Development Committees: These committees actively engage communities in identifying their specific educational and cultural needs, ensuring that local voices are heard and prioritised;
 - ii. CDF-Funded Projects: Through the fund, the State party invests in building schools, sponsoring youth skills training programmes, and supporting cultural festivals, thereby fostering both educational advancement and cultural enrichment. From 2022 to 2024, the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) has successfully completed 10,596 projects, with 2,912 specifically focused on the education sector. The fund has awarded secondary school and skills development bursaries to a total of 234,170 students, significantly enhancing access to education. To further promote the right to education, the State party has utilized the CDF to supply 661,753 desks to schools nationwide, thereby improving the learning environment for learners.
 - iii. Partnerships with NGOs and Traditional Leaders: Collaborating with non-governmental organisations and traditional leaders, the State party promotes cultural heritage and advocates for inclusive education, thereby strengthening community ties and enhancing educational access for all.

CHALLENGES

167. Despite these efforts, several obstacles persist such as cultural barriers in which harmful practices such as child marriage and gender bias significantly impede access to education, particularly for girls. These cultural obstacles not only limit educational opportunities but also perpetuate cycles of inequality. Additionally, bureaucratic inefficiencies can severely hinder the timely implementation of projects, ultimately diminishing accountability and effectiveness. Such challenges can stall progress and undermine efforts to promote equitable access to education and other essential services.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

168. The State party is currently implementing the Girls Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) Project. The GEWEL Project aims to increase access to livelihood support for extremely poor rural women and improve access to secondary education for disadvantaged girls identified from extremely poor households in selected districts.
169. Keeping Girls in School Programme - The State party has continued the Keeping Girls in School programme. The programme aims at increasing access, participation, retention, and progression of vulnerable adolescent girls in secondary education, particularly for those from socio-economically disadvantaged families.
170. The National Guidance and Religious Affairs Policy provides national guidance for ethical and inclusive conduct among citizens and institutions in national affairs. This is done by promoting positive customs, culture and traditions in public and private spheres of life as well as the promotion of indigenous knowledge systems.

51. ARTICLE 18: RIGHT TO PROTECTION OF FAMILY, WOMEN, CHILDREN, THE AGED AND THE DISABLED (INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO HOUSING AND SOCIAL SECURITY)

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

171. The State party continues to uphold its national values and principles as provided in Article 8 of the Constitution by promoting human dignity, equity, social justice, equality and non – discrimination.
172. The Anti Gender Based Violence Act No 1 of 2011 continued to provide key legal frameworks for the protection of Gender Based Violence and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women respectively.

173. The State party enacted the Children Code Act No. 12 of 2022 to enhance the protection of the rights of children. Section 18 of the Act protects children from cultural rites and religious or traditional practices that affect their life, health, social welfare, dignity and physical or psychological development. The Act further provides for sanctions for infringement of the rights of a child in its Section 27 and states that persons who commit the said offences against a child are liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or to both.
174. The Marriage Act as amended by Act No. 23 of 2023, provides a definition of a child under section 2. The term child has the same meaning assigned to it in the Constitution. Further, the amendment repeals Section 33 of the principal Act, replacing it with the following: “a marriage between persons either of whom is a child, is void.” Therefore, this amendment raises the legal minimum age of marriage and voids any marriage where one or both parties are considered a child.

POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

175. The State party reviewed the 2015 National Policy on Disability and adopted the 2025 National Policy on Persons with Disabilities alongside the implementation plan and National Disability Mainstreaming Guidelines which recognise disability as not being a gender-neutral experience. Further, the policy adopts the rights-based approach whilst emphasizing equal opportunities for human development and access to services. It also outlines measures for the protection of persons with disabilities and their overall well-being.
176. The 2015 National Aging Policy also continues to provide a framework for ensuring special measures of protection for older persons in keeping their physical and moral needs.
177. To enhance gender equity and equality across various sectors, the State party in 2023 revised the 2014 National Gender Policy. The 2023 Policy is aligned to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) and other instruments. Further, the Revised Policy recognises patriarchal tendencies, cultural and social norms as the factors contributing to power imbalances between men and women thereby negatively affecting human and social development.
178. The State party established 4 additional Gender Based Violence Fast Track courts in four Provinces bringing the total to ten. These courts aim to enhance access to justice by providing specialised survivor-centred mechanisms for handling GBV cases expeditiously.

JUDICIAL MEASURES

Frankson Musukwa (Suing on his behalf and as the Executive Director of Zambia Deaf Youth and Women) and Others v Road Transport and Safety Agency (Appeal No. 11. 2021; SCZ/8/18/2021) [2024] ZMSC 11 (16 May 2024)

179. The case centred on the denial of driving licences to deaf individuals under Sections 62, 59, and 68 of the Road Traffic Safety Act No. 11 of 2002, which mandate a physical examination that includes a hearing test. The petitioners argued that these requirements discriminated against deaf persons and violated their constitutional rights to equality, non-discrimination, freedom of movement, and privacy. They also contended that the provisions were inconsistent with the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012 and Zambia's international obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
180. On 4 June 2021, the High Court dismissed the petition. While the court acknowledged that the provisions appeared discriminatory and did not align with international instruments like the CRPD, it concluded that the discrimination was justified in the interest of public safety. The court further recognised expert evidence indicating that deaf individuals can safely operate vehicles. However, it upheld the existing legal framework, maintaining that the requirements were lawful and necessary for the protection of road users.

Katontoka and others v Attorney-General

181. The petitioners challenged Section 4 of the Mental Health Act, arguing that it violated their constitutional rights to equal legal capacity under Articles 11(a), 13(1), 19(1), and 23(1) of the Constitution. They also contended that the provision was inconsistent with Zambia's international obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ratified in 2010. The petitioners maintained that Section 4, which allows for substitute decision-making, undermines the autonomy and legal agency of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities.
182. The High Court dismissed the petition in December 2022, finding that Section 4 did not amount to unconstitutional discrimination and was consistent with earlier international standards, such as the 1991 UN Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness. The Supreme Court upheld this ruling, concluding that the appellants had demonstrated legal capacity by independently engaging legal representation and managing their case through the judicial process. Although it found no constitutional breach, the Court recognised the significance of the issues raised and emphasized the urgent need to improve Zambia's mental health services, which it described as "very poor." In acknowledgment of the public interest nature of the case, the Court made no order as to costs, allowing each party to bear their own.

52. ARTICLE 19: ALL PEOPLE SHALL BE EQUAL

183. The right to equality is addressed in Articles 2 and 3 of this report.

53. ARTICLE 20: RIGHTS TO EXISTENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

184. As provided in the last report, the State party's Constitution recognizes and guarantees the rights of all Zambians to existence, cultural identity, and self-determination. All ethnic, linguistic and indigenous communities are recognized as equal before the law and have the right to manage their affairs and resources sustainably.

185. The Constitution in its preamble, recognises the right of the people of Zambia to manage affairs and resources sustainably in a devolved system of governance. It also confirms the equal worth of women and men and their right to freely participate in, determine and build a sustainable political, legal, economic and social order."

186. Further, Article 5 of the Constitution provides:

"Sovereign Authority vests in the people of Zambia, which may be exercised directly or through elected or appointed representatives or institutions."

187. The Constitution of Zambia further obliges the people and the State to conduct the affairs of the State in such manner as to preserve, develop and utilise its resources for current and future generations. Article 16 of the Constitution also guarantees the right to protection from deprivation of property.

POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

188. The Human Rights Commission continues to promote human rights, monitor human rights violations and provide redress mechanisms. Further, the Commission continues to raise awareness among communities about their rights to self-determination, participation, and identity as well as provide guidance to the State party on laws and policies that align with the Charter.

54. ARTICLE 21: RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF WEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

189. Lands Act, Chapter 184; of the Laws of Zambia: This law recognizes both statutory and customary land tenure. It provides that all interested persons must be consulted before the Conversion of customary land to leasehold can be processed. This ensures that communities can legally control their land.
190. Land (Perpetual Succession) Act, Chapter 186 of the Laws of Zambia: This facilitates land ownership by community trusts, enabling collective management of resources like forests and water bodies, protecting against deprivation by external actors.

POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

191. National Land Policy (2021): This policy emphasizes equitable access to land and resources, prioritizing Zambian citizens and communities.
192. The Ministry also launched the National Wetlands Policy, 2018. The policy aims to firstly ensure the wise use of wetlands and their resources, and secondly, to create a comprehensive, stakeholder-based institutional and legal framework for their management.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

193. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has advanced land titling programs to formalize ownership. The National Land Titling Programme, ongoing as of recent years, issues certificates of title to individuals and communities, securing their rights to land.
194. The State party has also set up an Integrity Committee in the Ministry responsible for lands and natural resources to curb illegal land allocation.

JUDICIAL MEASURES

195. The Ministry supports access to justice through the establishment of the Lands Tribunal to specifically deal with land disputes.

55. ARTICLE 22: RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

196. The Local Government Act No. 2 of 2019, provides the legal backbone for councils to deliver public services, spearhead development initiatives, and mobilise local resources with greater autonomy and accountability. In the aspect of public health and environmental management, the Public Health Act, Chapter 295 of the Laws of Zambia and Solid Waste Regulation and Management Act No. 20 of 2018 have equipped local authorities with the mandate to enforce health standards, regulate sanitation, and mitigate environmental risks. These functions are indispensable for sustainable urban and rural development.
197. The Urban and Regional Planning Act (2015) further strengthens local governance by authorising local authorities to guide land use, infrastructure development thereby ensuring coherent spatial planning that reflects the diverse needs of communities and promotes equitable access to services. Meanwhile, the Markets and Bus Stations Act No. 7 of 2007 plays a pivotal role in economic empowerment by enabling local authorities to regulate informal trade hubs. These hubs are vital engines of local livelihoods, and the Act provides for their establishment, management, and oversight, including through public-private partnerships, and licensing.
198. Furthermore, the National Planning and Budgeting Act, 2020 was enacted to provide a structured approach to national development planning and budgeting in Zambia. It aims to enhance accountability, oversight, and participation in the planning and budgeting processes at all levels of government. The Act emphasizes the importance of integrating long-term and medium-term development plans with the national budget, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to meet the needs of the population. The Plan also emphasizes planning at local level through the development of integrated district development plans to ensure linkages and coherence between the national and local development goals.

POLICY MEASURES

199. The National Decentralisation Policy of 2023 establishes a robust framework for the transfer of functions, authority, and resources from central to local government, laying a critical foundation for inclusive, participatory development. Through this policy, the State party has successfully devolved some of the key functions to economic development such as Agricultural Extension Services and Tourism Promotion, empowering local authorities to respond more effectively to community needs and priorities.

200. The 8NDP is a strategic framework that outlines Zambia's development priorities and implementation strategies for the period from 2022 to 2026. This plan succeeds the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) and serves as a critical instrument for achieving Zambia's Vision 2030, which aims to transform the nation into a prosperous, middle-income country. The 8NDP places a strong emphasis on socio-economic transformation for improved livelihoods and is designed to address persistent national challenges, including poverty, unemployment, and inequality.
201. The State party has also launched the National Social Protection Policy of 2025 which focuses on the life cycle approach to cover individuals from risks and vulnerabilities at different stages of life including old age following the expiration of the 2014 National Social Protection Policy. The Policy ensures people have income to meet their needs thereby contributing to their well-being. The State party has successfully devolved thirteen (13) Central Government functions to Local Authorities as follows:
1. Pontoons, Ferries, Jetties and Piers;
 2. Harbours;
 3. Community Sport;
 4. Vehicle Licensing;
 5. Cultural Matters;
 6. District Archives;
 7. District Health Services;
 8. Ambulance Services;
 9. Veterinary Services;
 10. Agricultural Services;
 11. Community Development;
 12. Social Welfare; and
 13. Fisheries and Livestock Services.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

202. Integrated Development Planning (IDP) enables local authorities to develop five-year strategic plans that serve as blueprints for local development. These plans are aligned with national development frameworks such as the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP), ensuring coherence between central and local priorities. They are also contextualised to local realities, incorporating data from community consultations, sectoral assessments, and spatial planning. IDPs function not only as planning documents but also as instruments of coordination, guiding budget allocations, project prioritisation, and intergovernmental collaboration.
203. Ward Development Committees (WDCs) are grassroots governance structures that anchor participatory democracy at the ward level. They facilitate citizen engagement in planning, budgeting, and monitoring of local projects, while also identifying community needs and priorities that inform decision-making at the local authority

level. Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) once approved, are implemented for a period of ten (10) years and, periodically reviewed every five (5) years.

204. Revenue Mobilisation is a critical function of local authorities, who generate income through levies, rates, and user fees, including property rates, market fees, and business licenses. Between 2022 and 2024, the CDF successfully completed 53 projects in the agricultural sector, which included the establishment of seed and crop storage facilities. Additionally, the Fund developed 190 markets and bus stations, constructed 68 facilities in the Livestock and Fisheries sector, and built 623 kilometres of roads. These projects enhance fiscal autonomy for local authorities, and reduce dependence on central government transfers, and enable councils to respond to local needs with greater agility and accountability. These initiatives reflect the State party's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and supporting sustainable development in the region.

CHALLENGES

205. Development efforts and public investments tend to concentrate in urban centres, leaving rural wards under-served. This urban bias manifests in disparities in infrastructure, access to basic services, and economic opportunities. Rural communities often face chronic neglect in areas such as road maintenance, water supply, and waste management, despite being equally entitled to public goods under the decentralisation policy.
206. The pace of urban growth, particularly in peri-urban areas, has outstripped the capacity of local authorities to manage land use, waste, and public health risks. Poorly regulated settlements, inadequate sanitation, and weak enforcement of environmental laws, such as the Public Health Act and the Solid Waste Management Regulations, pose serious threats to sustainable development outcomes. Without robust planning and enforcement, urban expansion risks becoming a driver of inequality and ecological degradation.

56. ARTICLE 23: RIGHT TO PEACE AND SECURITY

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

207. The Defence Act Chapter 106 of the Laws of Zambia continues to ensure defence of the State party's sovereignty and territorial integrity in order to guarantee the national peace and security of her citizens and residents, foreign nationals and other entities intending to operate in the State party.

POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

208. The State party has a number of Defence and Security institutions mandated to maintain peace and security within the country. Article 190 of the Constitution provides for the principles relating to the State party's Defence Force and National Security Services. The Defence Force of Zambia comprises the Zambia Army, the Zambia Air Force, and the Zambia National Service. Its mandate is to preserve and defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State party, foster harmony and understanding among the Defence wings and the members of society, and cooperate with State organs and institutions in times of public emergencies and national disasters.
209. The State party has revised its Defence and National Policy of 2005 with the aim of addressing traditional, non-traditional and emerging security threats, as well as enhancing the Defence Force's participation in economic activities. It also recognises the potential of the Defence Force of Zambia to contribute to socio-economic development and to peace and security both nationally and within the wider region. The Policy acknowledges an increasingly complex global security environment. It is anchored on three critical and interrelated principles: defence, national security and peace; productive activities and national development; and the relationship between the Defence Force and the civilian population.
210. The State party has developed the 2023-2026 Defence Strategy, which sets out a bold and ambitious agenda for external and internal security management in the country. This Strategy provides direction for the State party efforts to efficiently and effectively provide and promote territorial integrity and sovereignty for a safe, secure and peaceful Zambia. The Strategy has identified key objectives and forward-looking strategies aimed at addressing the current challenges affecting the operations of the State party's Ministry of Defence. It also builds upon the direction and successes of the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

211. The State party continues to maintain the Central Joint Operation Committee as one of the Mechanisms for coordination of defence and Security matters at national level.
212. The Provincial Joint Operation Committees continue to coordinate defence and security matters within a province through co-operation and co-ordination with the corresponding neighbouring country's similar structure. Unresolved and outstanding issues from this mechanism are escalated to the Central Joint Operations Committee and the respective Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security.
213. Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (JPCDS) is a mechanism through which defence and security matters with respective neighbouring countries

are addressed. On the other hand, matters with countries which do not share boundaries with the State party are resolved through Joint Permanent Commissions on Cooperation (JPCC) where such mechanisms have been established.

214. The State party established a Bi-National Commission (BNC) with Botswana as a significant institutional reform in bilateral relations. It merged the functions of the former JPCC and JPCDS. This consolidation streamlines coordination and enhances the effectiveness of engagements between the two nations. Under the new structure, matters relating to defence and security are now addressed through a dedicated Defence and Security Committee within the BNC framework.
215. The State party has continued to use the advancements in technology to enhance security in the nation. The State party has continued implementing the Safe City Project which utilises ICT in the national security services.

Table: Programmes undertaken during the period under review.

Policies developed	1
Strategic Plans developed	1
Bi-National Commissions	1
Joint Permanent Commissions on Defence and Security	7
Central Joint Operations Committees	1
Provincial Operations Committees	10

JUDICIAL MEASURES

216. There are no new measures to report on.

57. ARTICLE 24: RIGHT TO A SATISFACTORY ENVIRONMENT

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

217. The State party remains firm to its commitment in line with the Constitutional mandate as highlighted in the previous report.
218. The State party has amended the Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011, provisions to enhance the enforcement of the Principal Act in order to protect the right to a safe and clean environment.
219. The Green Economy and Climate Change Act, No.18 of 2024 was enacted to safeguard the right to a safe environment by creating a framework for Climate Change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation, low emission

development, green economy and related actions. The Act further regulates carbon markets and establishes the Climate Change Fund.

220. The State party issued the Environmental Management (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, Statutory Instrument No. 48 of 2021, which aims to integrate environmental considerations into planning and decision-making processes for policies, plans and programmes that may impact environmental management and natural resource utilization.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

221. The State party has continued to initiate and implement various policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable environmental protection and ensures the compliance of companies and developers in so far as environmental and social impacts of their activities are concerned.
222. The National Green Growth Strategy (2024-2030) focuses on transitioning to a low carbon, resource-efficient and resilient economy.
223. The National Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2025) aims to protect the country's natural heritage by sustainably managing its biodiversity. The plan focuses on improving capacity and knowledge on biodiversity management, mainstreaming biodiversity in sectoral and local development policies, and reducing direct pressures on biodiversity.
224. The State party is in the process of developing an Integrated Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (IMRV) System. The IMRV System is being developed as a centralized national digital climate data management system. The key functions and design areas include:
- i. Development of digital tools for data collection, tracking and reporting of emissions, mitigation and adaptation actions and climate finance across key sectors
 - ii. A robust Statutory instrument that defines institutional roles, data requirements and standards, frequency of reporting, methodologies, verification protocols and data confidentiality;
 - iii. Standardized sectorial MRV guidelines, Quality Assurance (QA)/ Quality Control (QC) protocols, templates and reporting procedures aligned with UNFCCC requirements;
 - iv. A web-based platform for national public access and use.
225. The State party through the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, and the Zambia Environmental Management Agency is in the process of implementing the Carbon Registry. The Carbon Registry is being built to meet international best

practices and will serve both domestic and international project developers. The key design features include:

- i. A digital platform to manage the full lifecycle of carbon credits (generation, verification, issuance, transfer and retirement);
- ii. Support for both voluntary and compliance carbon markets;
- iii. Interoperability with international registries, allowing Zambia to participate in global trading under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;
- iv. Integration of approved methodologies for project approval and crediting; and
- v. Transparent and credible mechanisms to ensure environmental integrity and market confidence.

226. Finally, the State party through ZEMA is in the process of amending selected Regulations that have proven to be insufficient in the enforcement of the right to a sustainable environment.

227. The Licensing Regulations of 2013 are in the process of amendment in order to create a more enabling framework for the protection of the environment and natural resources whereas the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations of 2018 are equally in the process of being amended in order to enhance the protection of the environment and to prevent pollution by putting in place a framework that regulates the generation and management of waste.

JUDICIAL MEASURES

228. The State party continues to safeguard the environment through judicial measures as Courts have time and again made pronouncements that seek to ensure the sustainable management of the environment.

229. In the case of *Kasanka Trust and Others v. Gulf Adventure ltd and Others (HP 1280 of 2021) [2022] ZMHC 2 (January 2022)*, the Court granted an order of interim injunction restraining any further cutting down of trees, clearing vegetation, further construction works, fencing of or any other further activities or development on the land and abstraction of water from the Luombwa river exceeding amounts stated in the water permit.

230. In the case of *Lukwanda and Others v. Zambia Airforce Projects ltd and others (CAZ 8 323 of 2019)*, the Court held that section 4(1) of the Environmental Management Act entitles every person living in Zambia to a clean, safe and healthy environment and upheld the principle that the environment is a common heritage of present and future generations.

231. In this case, the Court granted an application for an injunction and ordered that the 1st to 5th Respondents be restrained from continuing works on the projects until they comply with the conditions provided in their decision letters.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

232. The State party has in place institutional, legislative and policy frameworks to guide the management and development of the environment, heritage and natural resources for sustainable socio-economic development to benefit the present and future generations.
233. In terms of environmental regulation, the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) is the statutory body mandated to take all necessary measures to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources, the protection of the environment, and the prevention of environmental degradation.
234. The role of ZEMA is to enforce the provisions of the Environmental Management Act, No. 12 of 2011, and its Regulations. It ensures that any developer obtains the necessary approvals before commencement of any project, plan or programme in line with section 29 of the Environmental Management Act.
235. Section 9 of the Environmental Management Act sets out the functions of ZEMA which include: developing and enforcing measures to prevent and control pollution; developing guidelines and standards relating to environmental quality as well as promoting research and studies, including the impact of climate change on humans and the environment. To enhance its operations, ZEMA has decentralized regional offices in Chipata, Chirundu, Solwezi, Livingstone, Ndola, Mkushi and Mansa.

CHALLENGES

- i. Despite the presence of ZEMA in a few regional offices, there is still need to broaden its presence in more Districts in order to enhance compliance and monitoring countrywide.
- ii. The absence of these offices in other Districts entails that technical capacity remains limited to achieve compliance to environmental laws and regulations in every part of the country.
- iii. To execute its duties more effectively, ZEMA needs more technical and financial assistance in this regard.

PART B:

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAPUTO PROTOCOL

236. The State Party enacted the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022 which codified all laws related to child protection.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

237. Sections 5 to 28 of the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022 spells out the rights and responsibilities of the child as well as parental responsibilities.

238. The State Party commenced the process of developing Statutory Instruments to operationalize the Act which included:

- i. The Probation Committee to facilitate enhanced oversight, support and guidance for children placed on probation. The SI also seeks to ensure that probation measures are not only implemented effectively but also monitored and evaluated for better outcomes of the child and the broader community.
- ii. National Coordinating Committee for Children to provide a structured and coordinated approach to child protection and welfare.

239. The State Party also embarked on the process of translating the Act into Simplified and Child Friendly Versions.

POLICIES

240. In a quest to strengthen human rights, the State Party revised the following policies:

- i. The National Social Protection Policy to facilitate adoption of a new policy which will take a life cycle approach to address risks that individuals face or may face at various stages of life through enhanced coverage of social protection.
- ii. The National Policy on Persons with Disabilities to address the challenges identified during the 2025 Policy implementation period and to incorporate emerging issues such as climate change which had worse impacts on the vulnerable populations such women, girls, elderly and persons with disabilities and were not adequately covered by the policy.

241. The State Party also adopted the following policies during the period under review:
- i. Free Education Policy to increase access to education for all children regardless of their socio-economic background; and
 - ii. The School- Re-entry Policy to ensure that teenage/young mothers return to school and increase their future opportunities.

PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED

242. The State Party continued to implement various programmes including the following:
- i. Social Cash Transfer to support poor and vulnerable households living below the poverty datum line. The programme included 5 categories of household beneficiaries namely; female headed, child headed, older persons, chronically ill and on palliative care and persons with disabilities.
 - ii. Keeping Girls in School implemented to support girls from Social Cash Transfer households.
 - iii. Supporting Women Livelihoods implemented to support women between the ages 19 - 60 with grants and life and business skills for improved livelihoods.
 - iv. Food Security Pack programme providing support in form of farming inputs to poor and vulnerable but viable farmers to promote food and income security in their households.
 - v. School Feeding Programmes implemented to facilitate improved education outcomes.
 - vi. Bursaries to ensure that children from poor and vulnerable households access higher education.

OTHER MEASURES

243. Conducted countrywide awareness activities on the Children's Code Act with a focus on engaging key stakeholders such as traditional leaders and community members.
244. Continued to implement the National Child Policy to incorporate emerging issues.
245. Enhanced family reintegration mechanisms.
246. Promotion of positive parenting.
247. Enhanced case management including linkages to social services.

CHALLENGES

248. Some of the key challenges faced by State Party in protecting and promoting the rights of children and other vulnerable groups such as women included the following:
- i. Inadequate coordination mechanisms among stakeholders.
 - ii. Lack of an integrated information management system to ensure smooth provision of services to the vulnerable groups.
 - iii. Deeply rooted cultural norms and traditional practices that perpetuate infringement on human rights.

58. ARTICLE 2: ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

249. The State party reports that it has taken measures to combat discrimination resulting from cultural harmful practices and gender stereotypes through the following measures:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

250. The State party continues to uphold its national values and principles in Article 8 of the Constitution by promoting human dignity, equity, social justice, equality and non – discrimination. Further, Article 9 of the Constitution provides for the State of the National Address on the National Principles and Values in Parliament once every year; hence, the President reports to the National Assembly on the progress made in the application of the values and principles.
251. The Gender Equity and Equality Act has provided for the prohibition of harassment, victimisation and harmful social, cultural and religious practices to achieve gender equity and equality. Section 2 of the Act defines harmful practice to mean social, cultural or religious practice which undermines the dignity, health or liberty of a person or results in physical, sexual, emotional or psychological harm to a person.
252. Section 28 of the Act provides for the elimination of adverse social and cultural practices and conduct by expressly stating that no adverse social or cultural practices shall be imposed on, developed for, or against, women. The State party has further provided penalties for persons who contravene the law and offenders are liable, upon conviction, to a fine or to a term of imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years, or to both.
253. Section 18 of the Children Code Act No. 12 of 2022 protects children from cultural rites and religious or traditional practices that affect their life, health, social welfare, dignity and physical or psychological development. The Act further provides for sanctions for infringement of the rights of a child in its Section 27 and states that persons who commits the said offences against a child are liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or to both.
254. Section 18 of the Education Act prohibits child learners from early child marriages. criminalising the act of marrying off a learner with a minimum of 25 years imprisonment.
255. The amendment of the Marriage in 2023 prohibits contracts of marriage with a child.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

256. To enhance gender equity and equality, the State Party revised the National Gender Policy in 2023. The Revised Policy recognises patriarchal tendencies, cultural and social norms as the factors contributing to power imbalances between men, women and other vulnerable groups thereby negatively affecting human and social development.
257. The State party continues to enhance Human Development and focus on reducing Developmental Inequalities through its National Development Plans. The 8NDP prioritizes "Enhanced Human Development" as one of its key strategic development outcomes. This pillar aims to improve the well-being of all Zambians, which inherently includes addressing practices that negatively impact individuals' health, education, and overall development.
258. The plan also focuses on "Reduced Developmental Inequalities," which includes addressing gender disparities. Harmful cultural practices which are often rooted in gender inequality and be violations of human rights and barriers to development. By promoting gender equality, the 8NDP implicitly aims to reduce the prevalence of these harmful practices.

JUDICIAL MEASURES

259. The State party has continued to promote gender equality in judicial appointments, with women making up approximately 40 percent of all judicial officers in Zambia. Women comprise the majority in the Constitutional Court, Court of Appeal, and High Court. It is also worth noting that the State party has achieved a historic milestone with women holding all top judicial leadership posts over the last ten years—Chief Justice, Constitutional Court President, and Court of Appeal Judge President. Judicial positions have been the preserve of men, but the State party has addressed this stereotype.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

260. The State party has fulfilled its obligations under the Protocol by domesticating its provisions into its national laws and policies.
261. Awareness raising and education – the State party has been working with civil society organisations to undertake public awareness campaigns to educate citizens, particularly women and girls, about their rights under the Protocol. This includes integrating gender-sensitive and human rights education into the school curriculum.
262. Ensuring access to justice – the State party has been working with civil society and cooperating partners to implement programmes to promote access to justice and legal remedies to address violations of their rights under the protocol.

CHALLENGES

263. The State party has a dual legal system which consists of statutory and customary law. Despite the protection in Article 1(1) of the Constitution, most rural communities have not been adequately exposed to human rights awareness-raising programmes that confront the cultural and traditional norms that perpetuate discrimination against women, children, persons living with HIV/AIDS, orphans, widows and persons with disabilities. Therefore, some practices under customary law continue to create and sustain avenues for discrimination against women and other vulnerable groups.

59. ARTICLE 3: THE RIGHT TO DIGNITY

264. The State party shall adopt and implement appropriate measures to prohibit any exploitation or degradation of women and ensure the protection of every woman's right to respect for her dignity and protection of women from all forms of violence, particularly sexual and verbal violence through the following measures:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

265. The State party is making strides to ensure the effective implementation of the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act. In terms of the Criminal Prosecution of GBV cases, Law enforcement and Prosecution are making efforts to ensure justice is served. Steps have been made through a directive not to withdraw matters of GBV cases. Further, civil proceedings are being conducted for the protection of victims of GBV through protection orders and occupational orders and other civil remedies available to victims of GBV.

INSTITUTIONAL AND JUDICIAL MEASURES

266. The State party has put in place measures for the protection of the identity of victims of GBV. It must be noted that for adult victims, protection of their identity during trial in court is not guaranteed, as it is at the discretion of the court to either allow the proceedings to be closed or not. The State party, in taking a victim-friendly and trauma approach in the prosecution of GBV cases, has endeavoured to ensure that hearings be closed. According to Article 18(10) of the Zambian Constitution, all criminal proceedings must be heard in open court.

267. However, Article 18(11) provides exceptions where the court may exclude members of the public from proceedings. The court may do so when:

- i. Publicity would prejudice the interests of justice or interlocutory proceedings; or
- ii. It is necessary for reasons of defence, public order, public morality, the welfare of persons under 18, or the protection of the private lives of those involved in the proceedings.

268. To request a closed hearing for a GBV criminal case involving an adult victim, an application can be made under Section 76 of the Criminal Procedure Act, Chapter 88 of the Laws of Zambia. However, the decision to grant such an application is at the discretion of the court.
269. Further, an adult victim's anonymity may be granted, but only upon application to the court. However, there is no specific statutory provision allowing such an application, meaning reliance is placed on case law and common law principles. The legal precedent for such applications is found in *The People v. James Mulenga Bwalya and Matthews Sikaonga (HP/87/2023)*, where the court permitted the concealment of the adult victims' identities during the proceedings.
270. Additionally, the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act (AGBVA) provides in Section 37 that proceedings related to Protection Orders and Occupation Orders may be conducted in camera (closed court). However, this is also at the discretion of the court.
271. Further, under Section 38 of the AGBVA, the publication of reports on these proceedings is restricted, and the identities of the complainant and witnesses is protected. Violating these provisions may result in fines or imprisonment.
272. For child victims of GBV, protection of the identity of children and anonymity is recognised by the Children's Code Act.

CHALLENGES

273. The State party is facing the following challenges:
- i. The State party is grappling with a budget for the Anti-GBV Fund and its administration. This has affected the provision of psycho-social services.
 - ii. Lack of court rules for criminal proceedings for GBV matters
 - iii. Inadequate Social Workers to offer psycho-social services for adult victims in court.
 - iv. Protection of the identity of adult victims during criminal proceedings is not guaranteed and is at the discretion.
274. The State party wishes to state that the Gender Based Crimes Unit, was established in 2015, to ensure full effective implementation to enable prosecute offences related to Gender Based Violence cases as well as VSU.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

275. The Constitution under Article 180 establishes the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions who is the Chief Prosecutor who has the power to institute and undertake criminal proceedings against a person before a court, other than a court-martial, for an offence alleged to have been committed by that person; take over and continue criminal proceedings instituted or undertaken by another person or authority; and discontinue, at any stage before judgment is delivered.
276. The State party enacted the National Prosecution Authority Act, No. 34 of 2010 which established the National Prosecution Authority (NPA), which is headed by the Director of Public Prosecution and is responsible for prosecuting all criminal matters, including GBV cases, on behalf of the state. The National Prosecution has a fully-fledged Gender Based Crime and Child Protection Department at Headquarters. The Department has since scaled up its mandate by including Child Protection. This means that any GBV case reported and thoroughly investigated will receive legal services through prosecution at no cost to the victim and will be handled by this Department. As part of its mandate, the NPA provides legal advice to victims and guides them through the prosecution process.
277. The NPA's Gender Based Crimes and Child Protection Department oversees all matters of GBV and child-related matters. The Department is fully operational and provides prosecutorial services, legal and technical advice, processing of dockets, prevention programmes such as sensitisation to members of the public, capacity building and other matters incidental to the foregoing. The Department is headed by a Deputy Chief State Advocate and has a human resource capacity of 5 other prosecutors.
278. The Legal Aid Board provides legal services to individuals for civil applications such as protection or occupation orders who cannot afford them. These legal aid services are governed by the Legal Aid Act No. 1 of 2021. Additionally, the National Legal Aid Clinic for Women offers legal assistance to women and children experiencing GBV.
279. If, during civil proceedings (such as divorce cases), it is discovered that a spouse has suffered GBV, the matter is treated as a criminal case. The NPA then assumes responsibility for prosecuting the case, provided that investigations yield sufficient evidence to proceed to trial. This is made possible by the referrals done to the relevant institution by the persons dealing with the matter.
280. The State Party recognises the need to allocate sufficient budget and resources to strengthen specialised legal services. For criminal GBV, the National Prosecution Authority, increased its Human resources by employing 62 prosecutors and has advertised for 50 more positions for prosecutors who will be assigned to various districts around the country.

OTHER MEASURES

281. The State party, through the Law Association of Zambia, has come up with a Legal Aid Pro-Bono Committee that is being run in conjunction with the Legal Aid Board. The Pro bono scheme mandates all lawyers in Zambia to take up a matter, which includes taking up matters of GBV in civil proceedings. Lawyers who fail to take up matters are to pay a fine which is used to for other legal aid service paper work for the free legal aid service offered.

CHALLENGES

- i. Lack of enough funds available to cater for the volume of cases received.
 - ii. Despite the initiative put in place, very few lawyers are generally interested in this area of the law.
 - iii. While the Gender Based Crimes and Child Protection Department is fully operational, the Department has not been decentralized to the other provinces and districts. The Department operates only in Lusaka. However, to mitigate this challenge, focal point persons have been appointed to oversee the prosecution of GBV cases. Further, in the districts, all prosecutors prosecute GBV cases with the focal point person providing technical expertise in the prosecution of these cases.
 - iv. Understaffing- the volume of the GBV cases is high and requires time as the preparation of these cases goes beyond just obtaining evidence. GBV matters are emotionally tasking and prosecutors must use a victim and trauma approach in the preparation. Therefore, dedicated staff for GBV are needed.
 - v. Capacity building of prosecutors on GBV.
 - vi. Lack of safe spaces during pre- trial of GBV cases.
 - vii. Reluctance of victims to testify, leading to withdrawal of matters.
 - viii. Insufficient resources to carter fully for the operations of the department.
 - ix. Insufficient funds allocated to the witness fund.
282. The State party embarked on the review of the Penal Code Act and the Anti- Gender Based Violence Act. However, in relation to marital rape, consultations are still being conducted on the possibility of criminalizing marital rape. This is a sensitisation of key stakeholders and traditional leaders.

OTHER MEASURES

283. The State party has undertaken to conduct sensitisation of parliamentarians on marital rape, the legalities surrounding this offence and its consequences or effects on women who experience it. The sensitisation is also extended to the community members. The sensitization also includes helping people understand drawing the line between intentionally depriving conjugal rights and actual lack of consent to sex.

284. The State party reports that efforts have been put in place to raise awareness of violence against women in all areas in the country. This is done through a multi-sectoral approach involving all stakeholders in the fight against violence against women; these stakeholders include, Zambia Police Services (VSU), the Department of Social Welfare, the National Prosecution Authority (Gender Based Crimes and Child Protection Department), CSOs, NGOs, Ministry of Health (One Stop centres and village-led one stop centres), Gender division and traditional leaders.
285. The State party has put in place radio and tv programmes on creating awareness, radio shows in the high-density areas. For the rural areas, community radios, village champions and traditional leaders are responsible for raising awareness on violence.

60. ARTICLE 4: THE RIGHTS TO LIFE, INTEGRITY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

286. Article 4 of the Protocol states that every woman shall be entitled to respect for her life and the integrity and security of her person. All forms of exploitation, cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

287. The State party continues to implement the legislative provision highlighted in its previous report. Further, the State party has progressively taken legislative measures aimed at ensuring the protection of the right to life, physical and psychological integrity and the right to security of the person. Efforts include the adoption of a legal framework to prevent arbitrary deprivation of life through the enactment of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 23 of 2022, to repeal all provisions imposing the death penalty.
288. The State party is still undergoing consultations on the Anti-Torture Bill and currently working towards the promulgation of an Anti-Torture Act. The State party is also working on the amendment of the Penal Code which shall include provisions relating to torture.
289. Additionally, the enactment of legislation such as the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act further aimed at protecting women against inequality, violence and other hegemonic practices committed against them illustrates the State party's commitment to take adequate measures to address difficulties faced by women.

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

290. The State party continues to collaborate with CSOs in carrying out sensitisation campaigns informing women about their rights and the mechanisms for making complaints on domestic violence and other forms of violence against them.

OTHER MEASURES

291. The State Party in collaboration with CSOs provided comprehensive support services to 23 suspected victims of human trafficking to meet their immediate transitional needs such as shelter, healthcare, psychosocial counselling and re-integration.

CHALLENGES

292. The violence against women in the State party has continued to exacerbate by patriarchal attitudes rooted in cultural beliefs and traditions which make it difficult for women to be treated equally. Many men still view women as inferior.

61. ARTICLE 5: ELIMINATION OF HARMFUL PRACTICES

293. Article 5 of the Maputo Protocol obligates State Parties to prohibit and eliminate all forms of harmful practices that negatively affect the human rights of women and girls. These include child marriage, forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), and other harmful traditional or social norms that threaten women's dignity, health, and bodily integrity.

294. The State party ratified the Maputo Protocol in 2006 and has since taken key steps to domesticate Article 5 through legislative, policy and institutional reforms in order to eliminate harmful practices.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

295. The State party has, since the last reporting period, embarked on progressive legislative reform aimed at strengthening protection mechanisms against harmful practices. Notably, the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011 is currently under review, this review is intended to address critical gaps identified in the law's implementation, including weak enforcement provisions, inadequate survivor-centred protections and limited community-based prevention mechanisms. The revision of the Act seeks to enhance legal safeguards, improve accountability and expand access to justice for survivors of GBV, particularly women and girls.

296. The State party seeks through the reform process to address evolving forms of gender-based violence and to ensure that the legislation is more closely aligned with international and regional human rights standards, including those enshrined in the Maputo Protocol. In undertaking these reforms, the State party reaffirms its commitment to eliminating harmful practices and strengthening a legal framework that upholds gender equality, bodily autonomy, and the dignity of women and girls.

297. The State party, working in collaboration with civil society organizations and development partners, has undertaken a consultative and inclusive reform process. In

this regard, a wide range of stakeholders have been engaged, including survivors of gender-based violence, women's rights organizations, traditional leaders, religious figures, legal experts and community representatives. These consultations have been instrumental in ensuring that the revised law aligns with the State's obligations under international and regional human rights instruments while also reflecting the context-specific experiences of those affected by harmful practices in Zambia.

298. The State party enacted the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022 to reform and consolidate laws relating to children. The Act establishes a comprehensive child protection framework that safeguards children from harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child marriage. It criminalises child marriage, cultural rites and religious or traditional practices that infringe on children's rights, while placing clear obligations on parents, traditional leaders and service providers. Furthermore, the Act provides for institutional mechanisms to strengthen child safeguarding and protection.
299. The State party wishes to state that the Act goes further to prohibit cultural and religious rites and practices that are harmful to the physical, psychological and emotional well-being of children, including those that are rooted in patriarchal norms and discriminatory beliefs about the role and value of girls. It recognizes that such practices not only violate the rights of children but also undermine their dignity and access to opportunities for development.
300. The State party underscores that the Children's Code Act outlines clear legal obligations for parents, guardians, traditional leaders and service providers to uphold the rights of children and protect them from abuse, exploitation and harmful traditional practices. These obligations extend to reporting violations, facilitating access to essential services and respecting the evolving capacities of children in decision-making. In addition, the Act establishes institutional mechanisms, including child protection committees and district-level child safeguarding structures, to monitor, prevent and respond to violations, particularly those arising from harmful practices within communities.
301. The State party wishes to state that the Children's Code Act not only establishes legal accountability but also promotes normative change by challenging harmful social and cultural norms that perpetuate violence against children. It reinforces the principle that all children, especially girls, have the inherent right to live free from violence, exploitation, and practices that undermine their dignity and well-being.
302. The State party has amended the Marriage Act through the Marriage (Amendment) Act No. 13 of 2023. This law has aligned the legal minimum age of marriage to 18 for both girls and boys, with no exceptions, whether in civil, customary, or religious contexts. It also strengthens penalties and accountability measures for those complicit in child and forced marriages.

303. The State party enacted the Mental Health Act in 2019. Section 3(c) of the Act provides that a family or professional conflict, or non-conformity with moral, social, cultural or political values or religious beliefs prevailing in a person's community, shall not be a determining factor in the diagnosis of mental illness. This helps protect persons with mental health challenges from the harmful practices that they have historically been subjected to.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

304. The State party has reviewed its National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage (2016-2021) and it is currently awaiting launch. It seeks to eliminate harmful practices at community and institutional levels, mobilizing resources, and strengthening coordination among stakeholders. It also lays out a multisectoral roadmap for eliminating child marriage in Zambia.

305. The State party has reviewed its National Gender Policy to strengthen efforts against harmful practices that violate the rights and dignity of women and girls. The revised policy prioritizes the elimination of child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual cleansing, discriminatory initiation rites, and other forms of gender-based violence rooted in culture and tradition. It further provides a comprehensive framework for gender equality and protection, while enhancing inter-sectoral coordination among justice, health, education, and traditional leadership. The review also underscores commitments to gender-responsive budgeting, legal reform, community awareness, and alignment with regional and international human rights obligations, including the Maputo Protocol.

306. The State party is preparing a National Training Manual for traditional counsellors to eliminate harmful practices and align cultural rites with human rights and national laws. It will address issues such as child marriage, virginity testing, gender inequality, and gender-based violence, while promoting consent, reproductive health, and protection of children. The manual will also guide the retraining, accreditation, and regulation of counsellors to ensure their role supports the rights of women and girls.

307. Once implemented, the manual will be a vital resource for the retraining and accreditation of traditional counsellors nationwide, ensuring that their involvement in cultural rites of passage upholds rather than violates the rights of women and girls. In addition, it will establish a framework for the regulation of traditional counsellors.

308. The State party has been implementing behaviour change communication and community engagement and public awareness campaigns conducted by government and civil society. It has also been implementing cultural resetting programmes. It also has a robust toll-free mechanism for reporting harmful practices affecting women and girls through the Lifeline/ChildLine numbers 933 and 116. There is also in existence an Anti GBV Technical Working Group, which is a multisectoral body responding to GBV

including child marriage and other harmful practices. We have also strengthened our referral mechanisms and community response structures.

CHALLENGES

- i. Weak enforcement of the existing laws, particularly in rural and customary contexts.
- ii. Deeply entrenched social and cultural norms that normalize child marriage and other harmful practices.
- iii. Inadequate resourcing and budgetary allocation to child protection and gender justice systems.

62. ARTICLE 6: MARRIAGE

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

309. The State party reports that it amended that the Marriage Act by Act No. 13 of 2023, to harmonise the definition of a child with the Constitution prohibits the marriage between persons, either of whom is a child, is void. Therefore, any custom that permits child marriage is null and void.
310. The State Party reports that the amendment of the Marriage Act has addressed the issue of child marriage to prevent a perpetrator from using marriage as a defence for sexually abusing a child. *The Chinjamba case of 1949* supports defilement of a child below 16 years because of marriage is no longer applicable following the amendment to the Marriage Act.
311. The State Party's Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022 prohibits and criminalises the offence of child marriage.
312. All customary practices relating to child marriage are void and punishable under the Penal Code.

63. ARTICLE 7: SEPARATION, DIVORCE AND ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE

313. Article 7 of the Protocol provides that a State Party shall enact appropriate legislation to ensure that women and men enjoy the same rights in case of separation, divorce or annulment of marriage.
314. The State party reports that the Matrimonial Causes Act, 2007, is very instructive to the Judicial officers presiding over property settlement matters wherein the Court may make an order to give properties to a woman and/or child.

315. The State party reports that the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015 protects women rights to the use and enjoyment of the matrimonial property acquired during the subsistence of the marriage. The Act provides the following: Section 22 (1), *a woman has, on an equal basis with a man, power to decide and act on all matters relating to marriage and family life, including the same right to: (h) own, acquire, manage, administer, enjoy and dispose of property.*

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

316. The State party continues to ensure that women and men enjoy the same rights in case of separation, divorce or annulment of marriage. Section 22 (1) (a) of the Gender Equity and Equality Act provides that a woman has, on an equal basis with a man, power to decide and act on all matters relating to marriage and family life, including the same right to enter into or leave a marriage. In the Matrimonial Causes Act, the dissolution of marriage proceedings can be commenced by either party to the marriage. In all matters concerning the child upon dissolution of a marriage, due regard is always given to the best interest of the child.

JUDICIAL MEASURES

317. The State party has seen women face significant obstacles in securing property on divorce, particularly in marriages governed by customary law where women have traditionally been denied property rights. Although the Matrimonial Causes Act provides for division of assets and maintenance on dissolution, customary practice has not always aligned with those provisions. For instance, in *Mwiya v Mwiya (1977) Z.L.R. 113* the court held that under Lozi custom a divorced spouse was limited to household goods regardless of property acquired during the marriage. In contrast, in *Rosemary Chibwe v Austin Chibwe (2000) ZMSC* the court determined that spouses married under customary law are each entitled to 50 percent of property acquired by the couple during the marriage, thereby affirming equal property rights for men and women in such unions.
318. The State party reports that it has, through judicial decisions, strengthened the law on divorce. The following decisions are instrumental in the protection of women during divorce:
- i. In the Case of *Violet Kambole Tembo Vs David Lastone Tembo (2004) Z.R. 79 (S.C.)* the Supreme Court held; “When the issue of settlement of property arises, the Court is obliged, among other things, to have regard to all the circumstances of the case and so exercise its powers as to place the parties, so far as it is practicable and having regard to their conduct in the financial position in which they would

have been if the marriage had not broken down and each had properly discharged his or her financial obligations and responsibilities towards the other.”

- ii. *Fabion Ponde v Charity Bwalya SCZ/51/2011* the court held, *inter alia*, that: “..... we underscored the point that it does not matter that financial contribution was not made by both spouses to the acquisition or development of family assets; what matters is if the parties to the marriage made contributions either materially or in kind towards those assets.... It should follow that in a property adjustment application, a spouse making the application should demonstrate his or her own contribution to the matrimonial property either materially, financially or in kind. This, the applying party can do by showing how he or she contributed in concrete terms to the acquisition or development of the property by, for example ,giving necessary moral and financial support to the Respondent ; buying building materials needed by workmen at the site; supervising workmen while the spouse is away raising resources, or that he or she paid school fees, medical bills ,and met other expenses which should have been borne wholly or in part by the Respondent and thereby helped the Respondent channel resources to the property.”
- iii. *Mathews Chishimba Nkhata Vs. Esther Dolly Mwenda Nkhata: SCZ/8/017/2015, Appeal No. 60/2015(2017) ZMSC 234*, the supreme court at J 22 stated the following; “a spouse making the application should demonstrate his or her own contribution to the matrimonial property either materially, financially or in kind. Thus the applying spouse can do by showing how he or she contributed in concrete terms to the acquisition or development of the property by, for example giving the necessary moral and financial support to the Respondent; buying building materials needed by workmen at the site; supervising workmen while the spouse was away raising resources or that he or she paid school fees, medical bills and met other expenses which should have been borne wholly or in part by the Respondent and thereby helped the respondent channel resources to the property. In all cases the applicant should show they contributed”. The Courts are now more inclined to rely on the Nkhata which requires that parties to show their contributions in the acquisition of the matrimonial properties.

CHALLENGES

319. Rural women and children still face challenges in accessing public services such as police, judicial and healthcare due to long distances.

64. ARTICLE 8: ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND EQUAL PROTECTION BEFORE THE LAW

320. The State party has continued to make notable strides towards promoting access to justice for women through the legislative measures provided.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

321. The State party continues to implement the provisions of the Constitution, the Gender Equity and Equality Act and the Legal Aid Act in the promotion of access to justice.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

322. The State party has introduced through the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ), a pro bono framework Policy wherein all Lawyers are mandated to take up a pro bono matter for vulnerable people. Further, LAZ has continued to provide legal literacy and representation for women and children countrywide ensuring that everyone has access to legal representation.
323. The State party has continued with the administrative measures below:
324. ZIALE provides advanced practical training in prosecution to prosecutors under the NPA and other law enforcement agencies.
325. NPA required that all prosecutors under the institution had a law degree by 2021. Consequently, NPA's prosecutors have successfully obtained law degrees thus ensuring competent officers for handling matters diligently.
326. The State party has ensured that all training institutions for law enforcement agencies are adequately equipped with qualified personnel to give instructions around human rights in line with the Protocol.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

327. The State party has created an institutional framework for the enhancement of access to justice for women, through the provisions of One Stop Centres in health facilities and Village Led One Stop Centres in various Chiefdoms.
328. The Legal Aid Board has continued to provide free legal services to both women and men countrywide and has continued to open District offices.
329. The State party has created an institutional framework for the enhancement of access to justice for women, through the provisions of One Stop Centres in health facilities and Village Led One Stop Centres in various Chiefdoms.
330. The Legal Aid Board has continued to provide free legal services to both women and men.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

331. The State party has embarked on amending the National Legal Aid Policy of 2018 which aims at providing accessible and quality legal aid to vulnerable groups in civil and criminal matters. In relation to women, this Policy enables access to legal representation in the courts of law through specially trained paralegals at all levels.
332. The State party has repealed and replaced the Superior Courts (Number of Judges) Act No.9 of 2016 to increase the number of High Court and Court of Appeal Judges.
333. The State party has continued, in partnership with GIZ and CSOs through the Program for Legal Empowerment and Enhanced Justice Delivery (PLEED) seeks to enhance access to justice, especially for the poor and vulnerable, focused on legal aid, strengthening court administration and case management, and increase quality and efficiency in the criminal justice system. Through Legal Aid Board, CSO's and it's partners, the State Party has continued to establish Legal Services Unit Offices at the Magistrates Courts countrywide. The same program has led to the creation of paralegal desks in several correctional facilities and police stations. The paralegal desks play an important role in that they provide legal advice to detainees regarding their right to legal representation.

CHALLENGES

334. The challenge to access justice for women and the lack of information on the accessibility of justice systems has continued. Many women have no knowledge of the existence of institutions such as the Legal Aid Board, National Legal Aid Clinic for Women (NLACW), National Prosecutions Authority (NPA) Gender Based Crime Unit, CSOs who are into Case Management system.
335. The State party's inadequate infrastructure and few Magistrates and Judges has continued to pose a challenge in the dispensation of justice. This poses prolonged disposal of cases and/or delayed judgments.
336. Physical access to courts poses some difficulties for rural women who have to travel long distances coupled with the costs of travelling to courts, securing counsel, paying legal fees or accessing legal aid has continued.
337. The State party continues with inadequate funding to institutions providing legal aid services makes it difficult for the institutions to fully accommodate and deal with all matters brought before such institutions.

65. ARTICLE 9: RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

338. The State party has continued to Pursue its efforts to promote women's participation in the political and decision-making process through addressing issues relating to societal attitudes and gender stereotypes, limited access to education and political party structures.
339. The State Party has put in place measures to promote women's participation in the political and decision-making as follows:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

340. The Constitution of Zambia underscores the importance of citizens' participation in politics and decision-making processes. Article 8 outlines the country's national values and principles, which include national unity, democracy, constitutionalism, human dignity, equity, social justice, equality, and non-discrimination.
341. Article 45 stipulates that the electoral system must guarantee citizens the freedom to exercise their political rights, uphold universal adult suffrage based on equal voting rights, ensure fair representation of diverse interest groups, and promote gender equity in the National Assembly and local councils.
342. Article 60 recognises political parties as vital to Zambia's democratic framework and requires them to uphold internal democracy, foster national unity, and advance gender equality.
343. Article 231 provides for the creation of the Gender Equity and Equality Commission, tasked with promoting and mainstreaming gender equality across sectors.
344. Article 259 requires that any person empowered to nominate or appoint individuals to public office must ensure that appointees are suitably qualified and that, where practicable, both genders are equally represented—each constituting fifty percent of the total appointments. It further calls for equitable inclusion of youth and persons with disabilities, provided they meet the necessary qualifications.
345. The Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015: Section 24 and 29 of the Gender Equity and Equality Act guides on the equal representation and participation and the elimination of discrimination in public and political life.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

346. The State party, through the Legislature, has played a pivotal role in advancing the participation of women in Parliament and other governance structures, as evidenced by the increasing number of women holding key political positions. To sustain and build upon these gains, Parliament has adopted the following strategic measures:

i. Revision of the National Gender Policy

347. The State Party revised its National Gender Policy of 2014 and enacted the National Gender Policy 2023 to accelerate the attainment of gender equity and equality. The Policy aims to strengthen the coordination of an integrated and multi-sectoral approach in the implementation of gender programmes across all sectors including participation of women in politics and decision-making.

ii. Establishment of the Committee on Women Parliamentarians

348. Under Standing Order 204(5), the National Assembly has provided for the creation of the Committee on Women Parliamentarians as part of its General Purposes Committees. The Committee shall come into effect at the commencement of the Fourteenth Assembly and its functions will be to study and report to the House ways in which gender responsive laws may be enacted. It will also be tasked with the function of examining Bills referred to it by the House to ensure gender considerations are fully integrated.

iii. Parliamentary Committee on National Guidance and Gender Matters

349. This Committee is established under Standing Order No 205(g). It holds the Executive accountable on issues relating to gender and national values. The Committee plays a key oversight role by identifying policy gaps, monitoring government programmes, and proposing relevant legislation. Its recommendations provide valuable input in shaping government responses to gender equality and equity concerns.

iv. Ensuring Gender Representation in Committee Composition

350. The Standing Orders of the National Assembly of Zambia (2024) emphasise gender inclusivity in the formation of parliamentary committees. Specifically, Standing Order 176(5) mandates that, alongside political party representation, gender balance and members' qualifications must be considered. Additionally, Standing Orders 179(2) and (8) require Committees to observe gender balance when electing Committee Chairpersons. The Speaker is also obligated to ensure that at least 20 per cent of the Chairpersons are female, unless it is not practically feasible.

v. Establishment of Parliamentary Caucuses Focused on Women's Empowerment

351. Parliament has supported the creation of advocacy platforms such as the Zambia Women Parliamentary Caucus (ZWPC), a cross-party voluntary association formed in 1997. The ZWPC works to advance gender equality, empower women and girls, and increase female representation in leadership and parliamentary roles. It is affiliated with the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) through the Regional Women Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC).
352. In addition, Parliament has established the National Working Group on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Project, which provides another platform through which parliamentarians advocate for the rights of women and girls, particularly in the areas of health, education, and protection from gender-based violence.
353. The State party, in collaboration with civil society organisations, has upscaled capacity enhancement programmes targeting aspiring female candidates in readiness for elections.

CHALLENGES

354. Several challenges continue to hinder women's effective participation in political and civic life. These include 'supply-side' factors such as limited access to leadership training, lower levels of formal education, inadequate financial resources, absence of female role models, and weak family or community support systems.
355. Equally concerning are 'demand-side' challenges, such as the lack of institutional support for women within governance institutions and prevailing voter biases that undermine public confidence in female candidates. Parliament recognises that these obstacles are compounded by deep-rooted social and cultural norms that discourage women from contesting elective office.
356. Moreover, governance institutions, particularly political parties, often fall short in promoting gender parity during candidate selection. Parliament acknowledges the need for strengthened oversight, legal reforms, and continued engagement with political actors to ensure that gender equity is actively pursued in both political participation and representation.
357. The legal and policy provides for a plethora of avenues to ensure the right to participation in the political and decision-making process is realized. However, the provisions remain largely inadequate and are yet to be fully operationalized, therefore, implemented not fully implemented.

358. Poverty levels for female-headed households at 63.4 percent remain higher than the male-headed households at 58.8 percent.¹ This poses a challenge in advancing gender equity and women's empowerment as, in most instances, the poverty contributes to the low participation of women in important decisions such as resource planning and use, family planning and access to health and education services.
359. Patriarchal dominance and cultural beliefs of male supremacy and dominance, and the belief of exclusivity of men in participation in politics still persist.
360. Election violence or acts of coercion, intimidation, or physical harm perpetrated to alter an election outcome, affect women most. Women are most averse to any form of violence, and violence has a suppressive effect on them.
361. There is still evidenced need to review, amend and implement (practice) the country's legislation to be in conformity with the provisions of, in particular CEDAW in order to protect women's political participation.

66. ARTICLE 10: RIGHT TO PEACE

362. The State party has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing peace, protecting human and people's rights and fostering inclusive governance. Through the implementation of comprehensive legislative measures, the institution has established frameworks that support the protection and promotion of fundamental rights for all citizens. In addition, the Ministry has initiated a variety of programs aimed at encouraging social cohesion, community participation, and equitable access and opportunities. The Ministry has promoted the right to peace through various initiatives.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

363. The State party through Article 192 (2) (a), (b) & (c) of the Constitution of Zambia establishes the Defence Force which shall preserve and defend the sovereignty and territory of the Republic, foster harmony and understanding among the Zambia Army, Zambia Air Force, Zambia National Service and members of society, and cooperate with state institutions in times of public emergencies and national disasters.
364. Further, Section 14 (1) (a), & (b) of the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015, explicitly mandates that both sexes shall enjoy equal rights before the law; and both sexes shall have equal access to justice before the law.

¹ National Gender Policy, 2023

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

365. The State party has demonstrated commitment to gender equality and peace building by appointing Women to Command positions, directly addressing the underrepresentation of women in decision making. This proactive approach by the Defence forces ensures that women's voices are heard and considered in crucial strategic planning.
366. Other programs implemented by the State Party, include, the Trainer of Trainers program which ushered them into conducting the training of Gender Focal Points in Women, Peace and Security in Botswana. Furthermore, the "Trainer of Trainers" program and the appointment of Gender Focal Point Officers shows dedication to long term capacity building. These initiatives equip personnel with knowledge and skills necessary to effectively integrate gender perspectives into their work. The Sensitisation Programs to officers and troops further reinforce the importance of gender considerations in peacekeeping operations.
367. In addition, the State party is in the final stage of development for the first-generation Women Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plan under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

OTHER MEASURES

368. The State party through the Ministry of Defence has continued to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding in Zambia in the following ways:
- i. Conducted civic education programs to promote awareness about human rights, peace and conflict resolutions,
 - ii. Engaged with local communities to foster dialogue, understanding and peace coexistence; and
 - iii. Empowered youths through skills training, mentorship and leadership development to promote peace and stability.

CHALLENGES

369. One of the challenges faced by the State Party, particularly the through the Ministry of Defence in promoting human and people's rights is navigating complex administrative processes and regulations can slow down implementation.

67. ARTICLE 11: PROTECTION OF WOMEN IN ARMED CONFLICTS

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

370. The State party has embarked on law review to harmonise various pieces of legislation to improve the protection of refugees, provide for improved access to health services, improved livelihood and self-reliance and strengthening of enjoyment to their rights and freedoms, among other things. A brainstorming session with various stakeholders was held on 17 June 2025, the process is on-going.
371. The State party has in place the National Refugee Policy which seeks to improve access to justice by reviewing the law to secure the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and returnees to protect them against all forms of violence, rape and other forms of sexual exploitation. Mandatory free legal services provided by the legal fraternity provide increased access to justice. Sensitisation activities will also help the Persons of Concern (POCs) to exercise their rights to access these services.
372. The Revised National Resettlement Policy 2024 aims to put in place operational instruments to guide the resettlement and compensation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country and to strengthen coordination in the management of resettlement processes and resettlement schemes which include POCs.
373. Other programmes include, assisting Refugees in the Refugee Settlements with livelihood activities in collaboration with cooperating partners such as Caritas, Czech Republic, Good Neighbours and Braveheart Foundation. All identified women at risk and survivors are linked with empowerment programs in tailoring and farming including education to enhance their self-reliance. Education is usually a priority for GBV survivors who also benefit from the inclusive policies such as the Education re-entry policy which allows survivors to go back to school and have a chance of completing their education even through adult learning.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

374. The State party has been implementing the following measures to protect women and children in line with section 53 of the Refugees Act.
375. The State party ensures that specific measures are taken to ensure the safety of women and children seeking asylum status, at all times during their stay in designated areas on a case by case basis making sure that they receive their refugee status on time and shelter is provided with Core Relief Items (CRIs).

376. The State party ensures that a child who is in need of refugee status or who is considered a refugee shall, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by the parents or by any other person, receives appropriate protection and assistance by fast tracking their registration and conducting a Best Interest Procedure (BIP) which consist of Best Interest Assessment (BIA) and Best Interest Determination (BID) to enable timely access to documentation and essential services, such as health care, education, and shelter, and activation of case management pathways.
377. The State party shall, as far as possible, assist a child to trace the parents or other members of the family of the refugee child in order to obtain information necessary for the reunification of the child with the child's family working in collaboration with the Red Cross and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to reunite the child with the family, and where no trace is found, schedule for a long-term solution of resettlement to a third country.
378. The State party will where the parents of the child or other members of the child's family cannot be found temporarily or permanently, provide a foster parent who would take care of the child while other possible solutions such as adoption are being explored.

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

379. Since 2015, the State party, through Local Integration embarked on a program at ensuring that refugees are assimilated into the State party's communities or be repatriated. Based on the pledge made by the State party, a total of 23,000 applications from former refugees have been received out of which 3,018 former Angolan and Rwandan refugees have been successfully integrated into the local community.
380. The State party has put in place a National Resettlement Policy which is meant to help provide a mechanism for dealing with both involuntary and voluntary resettlement. It sets out principles, objectives and measures for dealing with resettlement as strategy for rural development and as a response to internal population displacements.
381. The State party conducts public awareness programmes on matters relating to the protection of women in armed conflicts, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and child soldiers. For instance, the State party has been consistently commemorating the International Refugee Day during which the rights of women and children affected by armed conflicts are brought to the fore.

CHALLENGES

382. While the State party has been making efforts to improve the welfare and protection of POCs the following challenges remain:
- i. Safe havens are insufficient, and those that do exist are not accessible or located near the victims in need;

- ii. Due to increased number of new arrivals, the capacity of the existing transit centres needs to be increased;
- iii. Inadequate social welfare officers in Refugee Settlements; and
- iv. Inadequate budget lines to finance food items in the transit centres for new arrivals.

68. ARTICLE 12: RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING

383. The State party continues with its efforts to strengthen the rights to education for girls in secondary and higher education, particularly in specific contexts and areas.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

384. The Education Act seeks to regulate the provision of accessible, equitable and quality education. The Act provides that educational institutions “shall not discriminate against a learner in any manner”; prohibits corporal punishment; provides procedures for preventing the Gender Based Violence in educational institutions; specifies that a learner who is a child shall not contract any form of marriage; and allows for re-admission of girls into school after pregnancy.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

385. There are no administrative measures to report on.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

386. The State party introduced the Education for All Policy in January 2022. This Policy is aimed at providing user examination and PTA fee, Free education at secondary level; in addition, to the free primary education Policy that was introduced in 2002.

387. The Re-Entry Policy allows and attracts female learners dropping out of school due to pregnancy to come back into school and continue with their education.

388. The State party is implementing one of the Girls’ Education and Women’s Support Livelihood (GEWEL) Project component called Keeping Girls in School (KGS) program, which provides girls from vulnerable households with school requisites and support to keep them in school.

389. The State party has achieved milestones in advancing inclusive education through the revision of the National Curriculum and the introduction of the 2023 Curriculum Framework. The review process was gender responsive, addressing the diverse learning needs of all learners and ensuring the elimination of gender stereotypes across subjects and contents.

390. The State party has put in place the Child Safeguarding Guidelines for the education sector, this is designed to protect learners from all forms of abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence within school environments. These guidelines provide a framework for schools and education authorities to create safe and inclusive spaces where children's rights are respected and upheld. Further, they have outlined responsibilities for school staff, established codes of conduct as well as included procedures for identifying, reporting and responding to safeguarding concerns.
391. The State party has provided for School Guidance and Counselling Units in schools. This facilitates for developmental, remedial and preventive interventions to support learners, caregivers and communities. Key interventions include, sensitisation on stigma and discrimination, training on School Related Gender Based Violence (SRGBV), support for victims of GBV, case management for at-risk learners and the creation of safe spaces and peer mentorship programmes in schools.
392. The State party has introduced a school feeding programme which provides a locally sourced meal to learners in pre and primary schools. The School Feeding Program, which has reached 8,193 schools and benefits over 4.6 million learners, is another significant achievement in improving the educational experience for children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
393. The National Education Policy of 1996 has the overall aim of liberalising and decentralising the education system in accordance with the democratic principles of local governance. The Policy states that the State Party is the custodian of the human rights of all individuals, including their right to education. It also contains specific provisions aimed at eliminating factors that hinder girls' access to, progression through and completion of education at schools and colleges in the State party. In line with the Policy, both female and male students are to be treated as equal beneficiaries and participants at all levels of education.
394. In terms of gender parity index, in 2015 there were more boys attending primary school with a GPI of 0.99 while in 2016, there were more girls attending primary school with a GPI of 1.1. At secondary level, there were more boys than girls attending school in both 2015 and 2016 with a GPI of 0.84 and 0.96, respectively. This shows that girls are still disadvantaged as compared to boys in the education system of the State party.
395. The State party has partnered with various civil society groups to promote female education. For example, the Campaign for Female Education was launched in 2001 and by 2017, it was working in 44 districts and was in partnership with 1,165 schools where it was providing holistic and targeted support for girls to go to school, covering needs that included school fees, uniforms, pens, boarding fees and disability aids.

396. The Girl's Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) project by the World Bank has the Keeping of Girls in School bursary which helps girls complete their secondary education and women living in rural areas in the State party take up economically productive activities.

CHALLENGES

397. Whilst the State party has made strides in infrastructure development including building of schools, it is still faced with inadequate infrastructure to fully accommodate women and girls. This is exacerbated by the lingering stereotype that has traditionally favoured boys schooling to that of a girl child.
398. Whereas the State party is in partnership with her cooperating partners to ensure girls fully participate in school programmes by providing sanitary material during their menstrual cycle, financial constraints have inhibited the State party to provide the service to all female learners in the country.
399. Pregnancy, early marriage and poverty are other serious challenges girls in the State party face in staying in school according to the Central Statistics Report on Analysing and Presenting Statistics with a Gender Lens; Women and Men in Zambia.

69. ARTICLE 13: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELFARE RIGHTS

400. The 2023 Labour Force Survey (LFS) indicates that the employment-to-population ratio of the female population in the State party was 34.3 percent with males at 41.9 percent and females at 27.1 percent. Low ration of females means that a large share of the population of women was not involved directly in market-related activities, because they are either unemployed or out of the labour force. The Survey also showed that the percentage distribution of employed persons by sex and occupation were more males than females employed in all the occupations except in professionals and service & sales workers at 48.3 percent and 39.0 percent, respectively.
401. The wage gap between males and females in the State party remains significant, with women earning substantially less than men. According to the World Economic Forum's 2024 report, women in Africa, including Zambia, earn 39 percent less than men on average. Some of the factors influencing income gap include Education and Career Choices. Women tend to be clustered in lower paying positions than their male counterparts who occupy managerial positions. Women are often steered away from high-paying fields and leadership positions due to family responsibilities and nature of jobs resulting in lower earnings. Societal Stereotypes and Bias also affect women's income as they face biases in hiring and promotion as employers prefer men to women because women are expected to prioritize family responsibilities over career advancement.

402. To implement this provision of the Protocol, the State party has put in place the following measures:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

403. Section 40,41,42,43,44, 45 and 47 of the Employment Code Act provides that an employee shall be entitled to compassionate leave were an employee has lost a spouse, parent, child or dependent or a justifiable compassionate ground, family responsibility leave, were an employee is entitled to three paid leave days per year to cover responsibilities related to the care, health or education for that employee's child, spouse or dependent, maternity leave after child delivery, protection against dismissal connected with maternity leave, protection from harmful work, nursing breaks for breastfeeding mothers and mother's day for employees in child bearing age. These are minimum employee benefits.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

404. The State party has a Vision on Gender Equality aimed at promoting gender equity and equality in the socio-economic development by 2030. This Vision is being realised through national development plans; and one of the targets of this Vision, is to reduce and ultimately eliminate gender imbalances as well as inadequacies associated with the provision of education, training and development.
405. Second Pillar of the 8NDP is Human and Social Development on Development Outcome Number Four is to reduce poverty, vulnerability and inequality. To reduce developmental disparities, the State Party has implemented interventions to address gender, income and spatial inequalities. Interventions to promote gender equality has addressed issues related to the participation of women in decision-making positions at all levels of governance and sustaining and improving gender parity in education. To address income inequality, livelihood and empowerment programmes have been enhanced to positively impact on incomes, while infrastructure development has, among others, be undertaken in different sectors to address spatial inequality.
406. In 2023, the State party revised its National Gender Policy to promote gender equality in national development by addressing existing imbalances. The Policy seeks to ensure equal opportunities for women to participate in and benefit from development, while introducing measures to increase women's representation in higher-level employment. These include encouraging girls and women to pursue male-dominated fields such as science and mathematics, thereby building a pool of qualified women for technical and leadership positions.
407. The State party has continued with the implementation of the National Employment and Labour Market Policy which was launched in 2019. The main objective of the policy was to create adequate and quality jobs under conditions that ensure adequate

income and protection of workers' basic rights by supporting inclusive economic growth and development by promoting gainful and decent work in all sectors of the economy

408. The State party has continued implementing the Women at Work Project which promotes gender equality, women empowerment and leadership in both the public and private sectors.
409. Other programmes that were implemented to empower women included the Social Cash Transfer programme and Supporting Women Livelihoods (SWL), under the ministry responsible for community development and social services.

CHALLENGES

410. The State party suffered with climate change which adversely affected livelihoods, food security, infrastructure, displacements, income, health among others.
411. In wage employment, women are concentrated in the lowest paying sectors and non-technical jobs, which are linked to their lower education levels, lack of skills and experiences required for technical jobs and managerial positions.
412. Despite the issuance of a Cabinet Circular requiring institutions to allocate budgets for gender mainstreaming, several policies and strategies have not yet been integrated. This is largely due to limited understanding of gender concepts and mainstreaming among stakeholders, and the challenge persists.
413. Despite, the issuance of a Cabinet Circular requiring institutions to allocate budgets for gender mainstreaming, several policies and strategies have not yet been integrated. This is largely due to limited understanding of gender concepts and mainstreaming among stakeholders, and the challenge persists.
414. There continues to be inadequate appreciation of the importance of gender issues among stakeholders, resulting in reluctance to effectively implement gender mainstreaming measures or to actively engage in the formulation of gender-responsive programmes. This challenge persists.
415. A significant proportion of women entrepreneurs continue to operate without formal business registration, limiting their access to financing, training opportunities, and essential business information. The situation is compounded by high interest rates, lack of collateral, limited financial institutions catering to their needs, and the additional burden of household and caregiving responsibilities. Consequently, women face considerable barriers to scaling up their businesses and enhancing productivity, and this challenge still exists.

416. Economic, social, and cultural rights remain non-justiciable, following the unsuccessful 2016 Referendum on the Bill of Rights. As a result, these rights cannot be legally enforced through the courts, and this challenge still exists.

70. ARTICLE 14: HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

417. Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol affirms women's right to health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). As a signatory and state party, Zambia is obligated to adopt legislative, policy, and programmatic measures to uphold these rights. This report outlines Zambia's key achievements and persistent challenges in implementing Article 14, with recommendations for advancing gender-responsive health services.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

418. The State party has enacted several laws supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The Termination of Pregnancy Act (1972) provides for legal abortion under specific conditions such as risk to life, physical and mental health, rape, incest, and foetal abnormalities. The Zambian Constitution upholds the right to life but avoids defining when life begins a 2016 referendum to define life at conception failed. The Gender Equity and Equality Act (2015) recognizes SRHR and mandates non-discriminatory service provision. Zambia's dualist legal system means ratified international treaties like the Maputo Protocol and CEDAW are not automatically enforceable domestically but influence national policy. The Zambia Law Development Commission has reviewed laws conflicting with women's health rights, paving the way for harmonized legislation.

Legal and Policy Frameworks

419. National planning documents reflect strong commitment to SRHR. The National Health Strategic Plans (2017–2021, 2022–2026) prioritize reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health. The Reproductive Health Policy promotes access to family planning, maternal care, and HIV services. The Adolescent Health Strategy aims to reduce early pregnancy, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted infections. The Integrated Family Planning Scale-Up Plan support increased contraceptive uptake, while the Draft DMPA SC-SI Roadmap (2024–2027) focuses on expanding self-injection contraceptive options.

Policies and Programmes

420. The State party has implemented several service-oriented programmes. Post-Abortion Care (PAC) is widely available in public health facilities. The Standards and Guidelines on Safe Abortion (2009; revised 2017) use a four-level prevention approach to reduce

unsafe abortions. The Zambia Family Planning National Guidelines guarantee access to a broad contraceptive method mix. Youth-Friendly Corners at health facilities specifically target adolescent SRHR needs.

Access to Contraceptive Services

421. Community-based initiatives and integrated services have improved contraceptive access. Contraceptives are delivered through community-based distribution, especially in rural areas. Integration into primary health care ensures service continuity. Innovations like DMPA-SC self-injection are provided through both facility and community-based services, increasing accessibility and self-care options.

Results and Progress

422. The State party has made measurable progress in family planning. The modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) rose from 34.1 percent in 2020 to 37.3 percent in 2023, moving toward the 2026 goal of 40 percent. Among adolescents (15–19 years), mCPR increased from 10.2 percent in 2014 to 12.1 percent in 2018. Unmet need for contraception declined from 20.2 percent in 2012 to 16.4 percent in 2023. The percentage of women whose demand for family planning is met by modern methods increased from 60.5 percent in 2012 to 69.4 percent in 2023. However, disparities persist: use is higher among wealthier women, while poorer and rural populations face greater unmet need. Adolescent pregnancy remains high, with 29 percent of girls aged 15–19 having begun childbearing—36 percent in rural versus 20 percent in urban areas.

Maternal and Adolescent Health Initiatives

423. Programmes focused on maternal and adolescent health include Saving Mothers, Giving Life (SMGL), which reduces maternal mortality. School Health and Nutrition Programmes incorporate SRHR education and menstrual hygiene management. The Keeping Girls in School Initiative combats early marriage and promotes adolescent health and education.

HIV/AIDS Programming

424. HIV interventions are integrated with SRHR. Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programs are widespread. There is also a strong focus on comprehensive SRHR and HIV integration, particularly for women and adolescent girls, supporting holistic care approaches.

Safe Motherhood and Post-Abortion Care

425. The State party offers legal abortion services under permitted conditions and post-abortion care across most public health facilities. These services contribute to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity associated with unsafe abortions. However, abortion complications have worsened from 8.36 percent in 2021 to 9.26 percent in 2024 with

projections at 9.19 percent for 2026 well above 3 percent target (DHS2, MoH). Efforts to address this include strengthening comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) and Improving infection prevention which are at moderate (61-80 percent) completion. Advocacy for legal provisions and communication too for different abled individuals are progressing but remain partially completed.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

426. The State party's Law is governed by the Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1972, which allows abortion on the authorisation of three medical Practitioner's. This has not been amended but specific guidelines are outlined below:

- i. At all levels of the health facilities, specific forms are provided to a health professional (clinical officer, Midwife Nurse, Registered Nurse and Public Health Nurse) at that level perform the procedure on abortion. However, three medical Practitioners need to sign on the forms for abortion.
- ii. The Act allows abortion under the following conditions:
 - a. Risk to life or health
 - b. Foetal abnormalities
 - c. Social economic grounds
 - d. Rape or defilement
- iii. The Ministries of Gender and Health lead SRHR coordination, while the State party participates actively in SADC and AU forums, helping to align national efforts with regional protocols and strategies.

Civil Society and Partner Engagement

427. Strong partnerships have enhanced SRHR outcomes. Organizations like UNFPA, Ipas, PPAZ, and WLSA bolster service delivery and rights advocacy. Community engagement and legal literacy campaigns raise public awareness and promote demand for services.

National Guidelines and Training

428. Clinical guidelines and protocols standardize SRHR service provision. Healthcare workers receive training in areas such as safe abortion and PAC. Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) now Life Health Education Skills (LSHE) is promoted in schools, though implementation remains inconsistent.

KEY CHALLENGES

- i. The State party continues to face several SRHR challenges:
- ii. Maternal mortality remains high at 278 per 100,000 live births (2018).

- iii. Unsafe abortion causes 13.3 percent of maternal deaths; only 5 percent of facilities offer safe abortion services.
- iv. Access disparities persist, especially for rural and uneducated women.
- v. Adolescent SRHR is undermined by early marriage, early pregnancy, and limited youth-friendly services.
- vi. Cultural and religious opposition affects uptake of CSE and abortion services.
- vii. Gender Equity and Equality Act is poorly enforced due to inadequate coordination, funding, and political will.
- viii. Low domestic financing for SRHR leads to dependency on external donors.
- ix. Weak accountability mechanisms limit enforcement of existing laws and policies.

71. ARTICLES 15: RIGHTS TO FOOD SECURITY

429. To ensure this right, State parties shall grant to women, whatever their marital status, their rights to food security and access to adequate housing. To implement the provision of the Protocol, the State party has implemented the following measures:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

430. The State party has in place the National Food and Nutrition Act No. 3 of 2020 of the Laws of Zambia, though it does not explicitly state "the right to food" but aims to improve nutrition as well as implement a national food and nutrition programme to ensure the public has access to nourishing food.
431. The Act focuses on establishing a framework to coordinate nutrition guidance and programming, particularly under the Office of the Vice-President, to reduce malnutrition and improve overall health.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

432. Under the Presidential Initiative, the State party has embarked on a scaled-up irrigation programme for resettlement schemes.
433. Treasury guidance for Ministries to allocate resources for both Nutrition specific and Nutrition sensitive interventions.
434. Creation of the National Food and Nutrition Commission to spearhead the actualization of the Nutrition agenda.
435. Developed the Reduction Strategies for Stunting.

436. The State party annually undertakes an in-depth vulnerability and needs assessment to assess the food security at households.
437. Support value chains for selected crops such as Soya Beans, Cassava, sunflower, certain animals and ground nuts.
438. The State party recruited Nutritionists to improve Nutrition Coordination activities at Provincial and District levels.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

439. Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP), Cluster Two.
440. National Food and Nutrition Policy of 2006, which is currently under review and in draft form.
441. Developed 5 Food Systems pathways for Zambia.
442. The State party has been implementing the Farmer Input Support (FISP) from which several women have benefitted.

CHALLENGES

- i. Stunting levels are still high in the country.
- ii. Cassava brown streak diseases outbreak affecting cassava production in selected provinces.
- iii. Most District Nutrition Coordinating Committees are not active as there are few nutritionists to serve as secretariats.

72. ARTICLE 16: ADEQUATE HOUSING

443. The State party has continued to give special attention to women in its policies and initiatives to implement the right to housing in the country.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

444. According to section 2.2.10 of the 2020-2024 National Housing Policy, the Republic Constitution forbids discrimination on the basis of sex. However, women in Zambia are disadvantaged with regard to land acquisition and ownership of housing.
445. In this regard, the State party has put in place affirmative action under which 30 percent of available public land should be allocated to women on conformity with Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Gender Protocol. However, there is no legal backing to support the Policy. As results show, Zambia has not performed well in

the actualization of 30 percent benchmark as regards to allocation of land for housing to women.

446. The State party is formulated the National Housing Bill to overarch the housing sector, establish a National Housing Fund and other interventions to support housing for women.
447. In 2022, the State party commenced the process of reviewing the National Housing Authority Act, to provide further legal backing to regulate the sector and support housing for women.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

448. The State party is currently reviewing the National Housing Policy (2020-2024) to provide continued support towards housing for women.
449. The State party is developing a National Urbanisation Policy to guide urban development and take into account the needs and role of women in housing and urban development.
450. The State party is implementing various measures including, but not limited to the following:
- i. Promoting gender equity in the access to social housing, financing and land for housing development by conducting needs assessments, to achieve equity in access to land and housing regardless of one's status or sex.
 - ii. Developing guidelines on mainstreaming gender in housing development.
 - iii. Designing gender sensitive housing finance products.
 - iv. Supporting policies and practices which encourage equitable access to land and security of tenure by, for example, lobbying traditional leaders to support policies and practices on housing for women.

451. OTHER MEASURES

- i. The State party is implementing settlement improvement programmes to improve living conditions in informal settlements and support housing for women.
- ii. The State party is encouraging Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to increase the supply of housing for all including women.
- iii. The State party is collaborating with local and international organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to address general housing challenges, including supporting housing for women.
- iv. The State party has come up with social welfare programs that support housing for women and other marginalised populations, including the poor and the aged in society.

CHALLENGES

452. The continued lack of an existing legal framework to State Party policy on affirmative action, under which 30 percent of available public land should be allocated to women, in conformity with SADC's Gender Protocol.

73. ARTICLE 17: RIGHT TO A POSITIVE CULTURAL CONTEXT

453. Article 17, on the right to a positive cultural context provides that, "women shall have the right to live in a positive cultural context and to participate at all levels in the determination of cultural policies." The Protocol further provides that State parties shall take all appropriate measures to enhance the participation of women in the formulation of cultural policies at all levels. To implement this provision of the Protocol, the State party has implemented the following measures:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

454. The State party reaffirms the principle of constitutional supremacy as provided under Article 1 of the Constitution, which renders invalid any law or conduct that is inconsistent with the Constitution to the extent of such inconsistency. Furthermore, the Constitution guarantees non-discrimination by prohibiting the enactment of any law or the application of any provision that discriminates against individuals on the basis of race, tribe, or system of customary law.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

455. The State party reports that the National Cultural Policy of 2003 is under review to address a policy gap since its lapse in 2008. The revision, initiated in March 2025 by the Ministry of Tourism, seeks to align the Policy with contemporary realities such as globalization, digital innovation, and the creative economy. The updated Policy will cover 13 thematic areas, including gender, youth, disability inclusion, cultural tourism, and climate change resilience, thereby reinforcing culture as a driver of equality, inclusivity, and sustainable development.
456. The State Party has continued to implement programmes aimed at training Local Court Justices on human rights and on the application of customary law in a manner that does not discriminate against women. These efforts are intended to enhance consistency and clarity in the administration of justice between Local Courts and conventional courts. Local Courts, which have jurisdiction over customary law matters, are empowered to apply uncodified laws in resolving disputes, noting that such laws may differ significantly across tribal groupings and regions.

JUDICIAL MEASURES

457. The State party notes that Section 56 of the Local Courts Act provides for the right of appeal to the Subordinate Court on a point of law from a decision of the Local Court. This provision enables women who are dissatisfied with a Local Court ruling to seek redress before the Subordinate Court.
458. In practice, the case of *Chibwe vs. Chibwe (SCZ Judgment No. 38 of 2000)* is illustrative, where a decision of the Local Court was overturned by the appellate court on the basis that it was repugnant and failed to uphold a woman's right to an equitable share of property acquired during marriage. Section 56 of the Local Courts Act provides for an appeal to the Subordinate Court on a point of law from a decision of the Local Court. In this regard, a woman who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Local Court can obtain recourse from the Subordinate Court.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

459. The State party established a Ministry responsible for Chiefs and Traditional Affairs with the objective of promoting the positive development of culture. Through this Ministry, the State Party implemented mandates such as the preservation, conservation, development and promotion of heritage institutions, arts, architecture, cultural sites and values in order to safeguard national identity and pride. This portfolio has since been restructured and is now a Department under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

CHALLENGES

460. The State party notes that despite significant progress in addressing harmful practices, challenges persist in eliminating customs such as child marriage, sexual cleansing and discriminatory initiation rites. These practices, though diminishing, continue to undermine the rights and dignity of women and girls in certain communities.
461. The State party acknowledges that some traditional leaders and community members have expressed resistance to modifying long-held cultural beliefs and practices. This resistance slows down efforts to entrench positive cultural practices that promote equality and non-discrimination.
462. The State party reports that gaps remain in public awareness of constitutional rights and regional commitments, including the Maputo Protocol. This is particularly evident in rural areas where communities have limited access to legal information and sensitization programmes.

463. The State party recognises that although legislative frameworks exist to prohibit harmful practices, enforcement remains inconsistent. Customary law continues to take precedence at local levels, at times diluting the application of statutory provisions that safeguard women's rights.
464. The State party highlights that resource limitations—both financial and technical—affect the scope and reach of programmes aimed at transforming negative cultural norms. This has constrained consistent and sustained implementation at scale.
465. The State party observes that women's representation in traditional governance and decision-making structures remains limited. This imbalance reduces their influence in shaping cultural norms and practices that directly impact their rights and well-being.
466. The State party acknowledges that Zambia's cultural diversity, while a source of pride, presents challenges in implementing uniform strategies to address harmful practices. Variations across tribal groupings and regions make it difficult to adopt a one-size-fits-all approach to promoting a positive cultural context.

74. ARTICLE 18: RIGHT TO A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

467. Article 18, on the right to a healthy and sustainable environment states that “women shall have the right to live in a healthy and sustainable environment.” To implement this provision of the Protocol, the State party has implemented the following measures:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

468. The State party wishes to report that Article 255 continues to guide the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources, emphasizing inclusive participation, access to environmental information, and ensuring that women are consulted and gender considerations are integrated into environmental laws and policies.
469. The State party further reports that Article 257 mandates the establishment of mechanisms to reduce waste, promote environmental management systems, encourage public participation, and enforce environmental standards that benefit all citizens.
470. The State party has revised the Environmental Management Act, to update the mandate of the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) and harmonize provisions on solid waste management, as well as the registration and regulation of pesticides and other hazardous substances. These amendments also support gender-sensitive environmental governance by ensuring that women's participation is considered in

environmental decision-making and that policies account for the specific impacts of environmental hazards on women and vulnerable groups.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

471. The State party continues to implement the National Environmental Policy of 2005. The Policy was developed to safeguard the environment and to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. The main purpose of the policy is to create an umbrella policy for the welfare of the Nation's environment so that socio-economic development will be achieved effectively without damaging the integrity of the environment or its resources.
472. Other key policies in this regard include the National Water Policy and the National Climate Change Policy. The National Water Policy provides a comprehensive framework for the management of water resources and seeks to address critical challenges related to poverty reduction, while also promoting equitable access for women and vulnerable groups. The National Climate Change Policy of 2017 establishes a structured and coordinated national strategy to mitigate and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, with attention to the differentiated effects on women and marginalized communities and the need for their active participation in climate-related decision-making.
473. The State party has continued implementing the Zambia Mining Environment and Remediation Project (ZMERIP) which aims to strengthen the capacity of national and state level institutions, improve enforcement for pollution prevention and address the environmental health impacts associated with lack of sustainable mining practices. The objective of ZMERIP is to reduce environmental health risks, including lead exposure, to the local population in critically polluted mining areas (in Kabwe, Kitwe, Mufulira and Chingola municipalities) while strengthening the environmental management in the mining sector through improved regulatory framework.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

474. The ministry responsible for water development, sanitation and environmental protection, and the ministry responsible for housings and natural resources have continued with their respective mandates to ensure that the State party has in place appropriate institutional, legislative and policy frameworks to guide the management and development of the environment, heritage and natural resources in the country for sustainable socio-economic development to benefit the present and future generations.
475. As part of their respective mandates, the Ministry responsible for mining, the Ministry responsible for energy, the Ministry responsible for water development and the Ministry responsible for labour have a duty to ensure that there is compliance with occupational health and safety standards in the mining sector.

476. ZEMA was established under the Environmental Management Act and has continued to be the lead agency in the State party dealing with a range of environmental issues and the EIA process. It also identifies the projects, plans and policies that require an EIA and inspects and investigates business operations that may cause or do cause environmental damage. ZEMA continues to play an important role in disseminating information on the environment and adverse environmental impacts to the affected communities and the public at large.
477. Some authorising agencies have their own environmental units. Examples include the Environmental and Social Management Unit in the Road Development Agency, the Director of Mine Safety in the Ministry responsible for mines and minerals development and the Environmental and Social Affairs Unit in ZESCO. Usually, project briefs and EISs must be submitted to these authorising agencies first.

CHALLENGES

478. ZEMA continues to have inadequate capacity to carry out its work effectively and efficiently. For instance, ZEMA has very little scientific and technical equipment, and also inadequate human and financial resources.
479. The State party continues to have inadequate capacity to address the adverse impact of climate change on sustainable living environment.

75. ARTICLE 19: RIGHT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO PROPERTY; ACCESS TO LAND AND CREDIT

480. The State party wishes to report that the Administrative Circular No.1 of 1985 which directs that 50 percent allocation of land should be given to women is still in effect.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

481. The State party wishes to report that the Lands Tribunal Act No.39 of 2010 was amended in order to facilitate establishment of District Registries, creation of the office of Assistant Registrar, and provide for an appeal to Court of Appeal instead of the High Courts.
482. The State party wishes to report that there are current stakeholder engagements including traditional leadership to review the Lands Act of 1995 and other pieces of legislation.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

483. The State party has continued to place emphasis on disaster prevention and mitigation by strengthening early warning dissemination systems to facilitate timely action, ensuring the repositioning of food and non-food items during disaster situations, and paying insurance premiums to the Africa Risk Capacity as a measure to insure against floods and droughts.
484. The State party provides dignity kits for the women and girls during Humanitarian response.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

485. The State party wishes to report that it developed the National Lands Policy in 2021 and its Implementation Plan aiming to legislate quota system in land allocations by providing for 50 percent of available land to be allocated to women.
486. The State party revised the Disaster Risk Management Policy of 2024.
487. The State party mainstreamed gender in Disaster Risk Management (DRM).

CHALLENGES

488. Although women in the State party are engaged in Agriculture activities, they do not generate a sustainable income because they generally have a supporting role to fulfil in family farming.
489. The State party wishes to report that women have limited access to production equipment and Land and their activities are usually limited to small -scale subsistence farming or simpler related work due to their other family commitments as primary care-givers.
490. Female farmers in the State party lack an environment conducive to high level of productivity compared to their male counterparts.

RIGHTS OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED WOMEN'S GROUPS

76. ARTICLES 20 & 21: WIDOWS, INCLUDING THEIR INHERITANCE RIGHTS

491. The State party has continued to take appropriate legal measures to ensure that women enjoy the fundamental rights and freedoms and has put in place measures to specifically protect widows' rights.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

492. The State party continues to act in accordance with Sections 5 and 7 of the Intestate Succession Act, Chapter 59 of the Laws of Zambia, the law that provides for a widow to be entitled to a portion of her deceased spouse's estate. Furthermore, Section 9 provides that the surviving spouse shall enjoy a life interest in the matrimonial home, which only terminates upon remarriage. These legal provisions serve to safeguard the rights of widows to inherit from their deceased spouses' estates, irrespective of whether the marriage was contracted under statutory or customary law.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

493. The department of the Administrator-General in the Ministry responsible for justice has the mandate to protect widow's right of inheritance by administering and enforcing the provisions of the law in favour of the widow, has continued.

494. The State party through the Legal Aid Board continues to provide legal services to indigent persons including widows.

495. The State party through the Victim Support Unit under the Police Service has the mandate to protect the rights of the most vulnerable members of society including widows where their right to inherit from the estate of their spouse is violated.

OTHER MEASURES

496. The Legal Aid Clinic for Women and Women and Law in Southern Africa are NGOs that supplement the State party's efforts in providing legal services to vulnerable groups such as widows on issues relating to inheritance.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

497. The National Gender Policy of 2023 is designed to enhance the rights of widows, particularly their inheritance rights.

498. The State party has been conducting public sensitisation programmes on the issues of inheritance to the general public through the media, international trade affair, provincial and national shows targeting women on their right to inheritance.

CHALLENGES

499. In practice, acts of property grabbing are common and serve to deprive widows of their right to inherit from their spouses' estate upon death. Many relatives of the deceased argue that they are entitled to get property of the deceased as a matter of customary law which they believe vests a right in them to inherit the property of the deceased.
500. Despite the Intestate Succession Act being in place for three decades, many people still violate the provisions of the Act unintentionally due to deep rooted cultural beliefs on the issue of inheritance when a man dies.
501. Lack of understanding and misapplication of the provisions of inheritance in the Intestate Succession Act by family members has an effect of abrogating the right of widows to inherit from their spouse's property.

77. ARTICLE 22: ELDERLY WOMEN

502. The State party continues to ensure that elderly women have the right to their economic, social and cultural development with due regard to their freedom and identity.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

503. The State Party, in its Eighth National Development Plan, identified social protection as a vital strategy for alleviating poverty and vulnerability among marginalized groups, including older women. Consequently, the State Party continued to execute the National Social Protection Policy 2014, which emphasized Protection, Social Security, Empowerment, and Livelihoods. Additionally, the process of reviewing this Policy was initiated with the goal of creating a new National Social Protection Policy that adopts a lifecycle approach, aiming to address risks encountered at different life stages, from maternity to old age.
504. During the review period, the National Ageing Policy of 2015 was implemented to promote dignity, security, and the rights of older persons while eliminating age and gender discrimination. The State party also continued enforcing the 2014 National Social Protection Policy to protect vulnerable groups, including older women, from abuse, violence, discrimination, denial, and neglect, ensuring their empowerment and safety. Additionally, the 2018 National NGO Policy provided a framework for

coordinated NGO activities, including those focusing on older women, aligning with the national development plan.

505. The Social Cash Transfer Programme is one of the programmes implemented by the State Party to support older persons including the elderly women who are 60 years old and above. In addition, households headed by elderly women were also eligible to benefit from the Food Security Pack Programme and Public Welfare Assistance Scheme (PWAS) and free health care.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

506. The State party continued to support elderly women by strengthening capacity at local and national levels to coordinate and effectively deliver social protection programmes tailored towards older persons. Support was given to persons aged 60 years and older through community or institutional care and ensured that quality services were provided to older persons through inspections and supporting them by way of grants.

CHALLENGES

507. The elderly continues to face many challenges that include; breakdown in extended family value system and social safety nets which leads to neglect and abandonment.
508. Inadequate infrastructure to cope with the demand of the increasing number of the elderly.
509. Stigma stereotypes and lack of comprehensive social protection systems to provide sustainable livelihoods for the elderly women remains a challenge.

78. ARTICLE 23 – WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

510. The State party wishes to report that the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2012 continues to facilitate the domestication of the UNCRPD and emphasize gender equality within disability rights frameworks, with no major amendments specific to women with disabilities.
511. The Mental Health Act No. 6 of 2019, established the Mental Health Council which mandates psychotropic medicine availability with dedicated budget lines, and instituted community psychosocial support and telemedicine for mental health advancements benefiting especially women, who experience higher rates of depression and anxiety.

512. The State party continues to enforce the Gender Equity and Equality Act to promote the rights of all and access to equal opportunities by men and women as well as vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

513. The State party developed and launched the 2025 National Policy on Persons with Disabilities which was a build up to the National Policy on Disability of 2015. The 2025 policy acknowledges the impact of climate change, fast evolving technological advancements that are reshaping the world and recognises disability as an evolving concept. Under the policy themes, gender is recognised as a cross cutting issues.
514. The State Party developed and launched the 2025 National Social Protection Policy which was a build up to the National Social Protection Policy of 2014. The policy focused on a life cycle approach and it emphasized disability inclusion with the major programmes such as the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCT) which were expanded between 2019 to 2024 to reach more households with persons with disabilities. In 2024, the transfer value rose from K200 to K400 every two months for households with Persons with disabilities, double the value of other beneficiary household categories.
515. The Cash-Plus initiatives such as “Keeping Girls in School” were expanded and integrated with Social Cash Transfer to support girls and women especially those with disabilities to improve school retention and empowerment.
516. The introduction of 10% quota of all loans under the Community based fund, Constituency Development Fund (CDF) towards persons with disabilities, including women and youths with disabilities.
517. The 10 percent quota allocation of employment in the recruitment of teachers to persons with disabilities, which saw the employment of 133 women with disabilities in the mass teacher recruitment in 2024 against a total of 202 persons with disabilities.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

518. The Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD) remained the lead coordinating body, while the National Trust Fund for Persons with Disabilities (NTFPD) continued to provide loans to persons with disabilities.
519. Provision of credit finance for women with disabilities.
520. Increased sensitization on the rights of persons with disabilities especially women.

CHALLENGES

521. The absence of gender-specific affirmative measures in the Persons with Disabilities Act and the 2015 National Policy on Disability to explicitly provide for special measures for women with disabilities, perpetuated gaps in representation and access.
522. Limited awareness and legal literacy among persons with disabilities, especially women, on their rights and eligibility for services, thus undermining enforcement of existing laws and benefits.
523. Gaps in the implementation of policy provisions such as job quotas, access to socio-economic opportunities, accessible infrastructure, and disability certification.
524. Women with disabilities face stigma, patriarchy systems, limited assistive device provision, and low social recognition and political participation.
525. Limited gender and disability disaggregated data to inform policy and monitor inclusive delivery.
526. Many public and institutional buildings remain inaccessible, despite circular No. 30 (2024) and transport options remain poorly adapted Visibility and Uptake of credit finance for women remained limited.

79. ARTICLE 24: WOMEN IN DISTRESS

527. The State Parties continues to (a) ensure the protection of poor women and heads of families including women from marginalized population groups and provide an environment suitable to their social needs and (b) ensure the right of pregnant or nursing women or women in detention by providing them with an environment which is suitable to their condition and the right to be treated with dignity.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

528. The Prisons Act Chapter 97 of the laws of Zambia was repealed and replaced by the Zambia Correctional Service Act.No.37 of 2021.The Act domesticates The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). Section 30 of the Correctional Service Act makes special provision for the admission and care of expectant mothers and circumstantial children.
529. The State party continues to refer to Article 8(d) of the Constitution which provides for including human dignity, equality, social justice and non-discrimination as part of the national values and principles.

530. The Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act, No.1 of 2011 of the Laws of Zambia, continues to protect the right of citizens including women and girls.
531. Section 53 of the Refugees Act provides for the protection of asylum seekers and refugees including women and children.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

532. The State party is in the process of opening the first ever Centre specifically for pregnant and nursing mothers. The State party has allocated special funds meant for the care of pregnant, nursing mothers and circumstantial children as shown in the table below:

Budget for pregnant/nursing mothers and circumstantial children

No.	Description	Budget Year	Currency in Kwacha	Currency in Dollars
1	Pregnant/nursing mothers	2025	1,200,465.98	51,568.43
2	Circumstantial children	2025	1,275,191.25	54,778.43
	Total		2,475,657.23	106,346.88

Source: Zambia Correctional Services, Lusaka. 2025

533. The Victim Support Unit of the Zambia Police Service continues to play a critical role in the prevention and prosecution of crimes committed against women, children, and the elderly.
534. In addition, the Office responsible for gender and the ministry responsible for community development and social services are mandated to safeguard the rights of women in distress. In this regard, the State party has maintained the provision of places of safety for women and girls experiencing abuse within their homes. These facilities offer protection, counselling, and skills training to empower women and girls to become self-reliant and reduce their financial dependence on their spouses.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

535. The State party adopted the National Social Protection Policy in 2014 to provide a comprehensive framework guiding all stakeholders in the delivery of social protection services, with the aim of improving the quality of life of Zambians. Under the Policy, the Social Assistance pillar focuses on reducing extreme poverty and destitution among vulnerable and low-income households, while the Protection pillar seeks to safeguard vulnerable populations from all forms of abuse, violence, discrimination, neglect, and denial of their rights. The Policy continues to serve as a critical instrument for promoting social equity, inclusion, and the well-being of all citizens.

CHALLENGES

536. Inadequate financial resources make it difficult for correctional facilities to fully provide food and other requirements for both the female prisoners and their circumstantial children or those whose children are too young to survive without their mothers.

PART C:

80. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KAMPALA CONVENTION

INTRODUCTION

537. The global crisis of internal displacements requires concerted efforts on the part of governments, international organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other actors to address the specific needs of millions of people who are forcibly displaced within their own countries. Unlike refugees, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) have not left the country whose citizens they normally are and as such, they remain entitled to the same rights that all other persons in the countries enjoy. However, they have special needs by virtue of their displacement.
538. The State party has continued to face the challenges with internal displacements owing to a number of factors such as human induced and natural disasters, encroachments, social /religious affiliations as well as the developmental projects. Latest statistics indicate that approximately 72,000 households have been displaced and most of them resettled in various parts of the country.
539. In view of the prevailing trend, the State party has revised the National Resettlement and the Disaster Risk Management Policies to address resettlement, enhance early warning dissemination, compensations of the IDPs and developed the guidelines on the management of Internally Displaced People. Currently, the State party has no legislation to confer legal status on those displaced, but the policies and the guidelines offer descriptive identification of the internally displaced, identify rights and guarantees relevant to their protection and assistance during displacement as well as return, resettlement or reintegration.
540. The guidelines and the policies reflect and are consistent with international human rights law and international law such as the Kampala Convention of 2009, which have been disseminated and applied as widely as possible by those involved in dealing with Internally Displaced Persons in the country.

81. ARTICLE 3 GENERAL OBLIGATIONS PARTIES RELATING TO STATE PARTIES

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

541. The State party has enacted the Disaster Management Act No. 3 of 2010, to establish and provide for the maintenance and operation of a system for the anticipation, preparedness, prevention, coordination, mitigation and management of disaster

situations and the organization of relief and recovery from disasters; establish the National Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit and provide for its powers and functions; provide for the declaration of disasters; establish the National Disaster Relief Trust Fund; provide for the responsibilities and involvement of the members of the public in disaster management; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

542. The State party in line with the Disaster Management Act No. 3 of 2010, Section 4(3) has established the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit which is responsible for the coordination, maintenance and operation of a system for the anticipation, preparedness, prevention, coordination, mitigation and management of disaster situations and the organization of relief and recovery from disasters in the country.
543. Further, Section 5 of the Act provides that the Unit shall be the Secretariat to the entire national disaster management structure, and shall implement all disaster management programmes and activities in the country. It provides that the Unit shall —
- a) act as the central planning, co-ordinating and monitoring institution for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and post disaster recovery taking into account all potential disaster risks;
 - b) advise the Technical Committee on the progress and constraints in disaster management and on other matters relating to the management of disaster relief operations;
 - c) warn the public of an imminent disaster and predict its effects;
 - d) maintain a data collection and dissemination system, and national strategic reserves of essential commodities and equipment for immediate disaster relief;
 - e) formulate disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and rehabilitation strategies and action plans to meet all foreseeable requirements in consultation with Government, non-governmental organisations and donor agencies;
 - f) prepare and update the disaster management plans and the supporting disaster management manual;
 - g) prepare an over-arching national disaster contingency plan and co-ordinate cross sectoral plans;
 - h) establish an early warning system covering all sectors and hazard sources and maintain close links with the different institutions that provide early warning services;
 - i) develop and sustain viable, effective structures and capacities at the national level, provincial level and within the districts;
 - j) take all necessary measures in order to prevent, alleviate, contain and minimize the effects of disasters;
 - k) conduct public and media briefings on disaster-related programmes, progress and constraints;

- l) act as an advisory and consultative body on issues concerning disasters and disaster management;
- m) make post disaster reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery plans;
- n) promote the recruitment, training and participation of volunteers in disaster management;
- o) establish and manage an Emergency Operations Centre, which shall be the nerve centre to monitor emergencies and feed into the normal operations of the Unit;
- p) act as a central clearing house for the reporting of disasters and dissemination of output from the Technical Committee during a disaster;
- q) conduct assessments, before, during and after disasters;
- r) work with authorities in other countries that are responsible for disaster management to exchange information and have access to international expertise and assistance in respect of disaster management; and
- s) carry out and coordinate all research relevant to its functions for the purpose of advising the Council and the Technical Committee on measures necessary for disaster prevention and preparedness.

544. The State party has also enacted the Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 3 of 2015. which provides for development, planning and administration principles, standards and requirements for urban and regional planning processes and systems. It also provides for a framework for establishment of a democratic, accountable, transparent, participatory and inclusive process for urban and regional planning that allows for involvement of communities, private sector, interest groups and other stakeholders in the planning, implementation and operation of human settlement development.

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

545. The State party has developed the Disaster Risk Management Policy which guides the implementation of various programmes and activities on disaster prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. The policy emphasises on the implementation of activities focused on Disaster Risk Reduction.

546. The State party is currently implementing the 8NDP which under cluster three on Environmental Sustainability is implementing strategies for enhanced Disaster Risk Reduction through the following:

- a) Provision of Climate Information Services;
- b) Early Warning Systems;
- c) Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation; and
- d) Disaster Response and Recovery.

547. The State party has continued to provide financial support for the protection and assistance through the appropriation of annual budget from the National Treasury for all disaster continuums. Additionally, the State party is currently reviewing the

guidelines of the operationalization of a National Disaster Trust Fund for effective and efficient disaster recovery and response.

548. To further enhance disaster risk financing, the State party pays insurance premiums to the Africa Risk Capacity to insure vulnerable communities for protection against droughts and floods. Under this intervention, approximately 108,000 households received insurance payouts in the form of Emergency Cash Transfer during the 2023/2024 farming season which was declared a drought.
549. The State party through various state actors undertakes consultations /engagement with the local leadership especially in Land management matters.
550. The State party has developed the National Resettlement Policy with a view to contributing the to the management of Internally Displaced Persons for both voluntary and involuntary resettlements.
551. The State party has developed the Guidelines for the Compensation and Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

82. ARTICLE 4 PROTECTION FROM INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

552. In line with the Disaster Management Act. No. 3 of 2010, section 5(2) (h), the State party has established an early warning system covering all sectors and hazard sources and maintain a close links with the different institutions that provide early warning services.
553. Further, under Section 7 of the Disaster Management Act, the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit provides guidance to Government ministries and departments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, communities and individuals to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters. The guidance covers the following:
 - a) ways and means of —
 - i. determining levels of risks;
 - ii. assessing the vulnerability of communities, households, environment and economic assets to disasters;
 - iii. increasing the capacity of communities and households to minimise the risk and impact of disasters; and
 - iv. monitoring the likelihood of, and the State of alertness to, disasters;
 - b) the development and implementation of appropriate Powers of Unit Prevention and mitigation of disasters prevention and mitigation methodologies;
 - c) the integration of prevention and mitigation methodologies with development plans, programmes and initiatives; and

- d) the management of high-risk developments.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

554. The State Party implements the following programmes and policies to enhance protection from internal displacement:
555. The 8NDP has explicitly put up guiding interventions for dissemination of early warning information and implementation of various climate smart activities.
556. The State party has revised the Disaster Risk Management Policy with particular focus towards implementing more disaster risk reduction activities.
557. The State party intends to increase reach out for early warning information dissemination and customize the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction through the Office of the Vice President's Strategic Plan for the period 2024 to 2026.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

558. The State party undertakes an annual in-depth vulnerability and needs assessment to get real time data on livelihoods and household food security for informed decision making.
559. State party also works with international Organisations such as the Red Cross, United Nations and the Oxfam as well as other Humanitarian Organisations in the provision of humanitarian support.
560. To enhance early warning dissemination, the State party uses a mix of platforms for dissemination of information such as bulky messaging, television and radio adverts as well as Information and Education Communication Materials.
561. The State party has developed the African Union's Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Action System (AMHEWAS), a multi hazard national early warning platform.
562. The State party has embarked on an Early Warning for all (EW4All), an initiative that aims to ensure universal protection from hazardous hydrometeorological, climatological and related environmental events through life-saving multi-hazard early warning systems, anticipatory action and resilience efforts by the end of 2027. The strategy is guided by the following objectives;
- i. Disaster Risk Knowledge, focusing on improving understanding of disaster risks and their impacts;
 - ii. Observations and Forecasting and strengthened monitoring;

- iii. Dissemination and Communication for timely and accurate warning dissemination for early action; and
 - iv. Capacity to respond, through preparedness and response measures.
563. In line with the Disaster Management Act, and the Disaster Management Policy, the State party has established a National Early Warning Sub- Committee with membership from both the state and non-state actors. The Committee is mandated to create awareness on respective subject matter, participating in risk analysis and vulnerability assessment and plays technical advisory role.
564. Further, the State party has developed the following strategies to enhance disaster risk reduction:
- a) Disaster Risk Financing Strategies;
 - b) Payment Insurance premiums against droughts and floods to the Africa Risk Capacity for selected districts;
 - c) Enhanced Anticipatory actions during disaster preparedness and mitigation;
 - d) Annual Preparation of the National Contingency Plans that inform relief pipelines;
 - e) Th State party is revising guidelines on the operations of the National Disaster Relief Trust with aim to decentralise its operations to the Provincial and District Management levels in an effort to foster decentralisation;
 - f) Implementation of various Community Based Disaster Risk Management Programmes; and
 - g) Timely prepositioning of food and non-food items especially in hard to reach places.

CHALLENGES

565. Most rural communities have challenges in accessing radio and telecommunication networks to enable them receive early warning information for early action. This accounts for low uptake of early warning information amongst the rural communities despite 100% dissemination of early warning information. For 2024, about 24% of the rural population accessed early warning information for drought and floods against a target of 77 % (2024 In-depth Vulnerability and Needs Assessment Report);
566. Most communities are reactive to disasters as opposed to being proactive making it costly for the government to respond when calamities occur;
567. Certain communities are rigid towards being resettled from their flood prone areas to resettlement schemes or safer places citing under development in the resettlement schemes;

83. ARTICLE 5: OBLIGATIONS OF STATES PARTIES RELATING TO PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

568. Section 5(2)(e) of the Disaster Management Act requires that the state formulates disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and rehabilitation strategies and action plans to meet all foreseeable requirements in consultation with Government, non-governmental organisations and donor agencies.
569. Further, section 15(2)(i) provides for emergency response resources and capacity in the national, provincial and local institutions of Government and among the private sector and the non-governmental organizations;
570. The Act also provides for the emergency response resources and capacity in Zambia, neighboring countries and relevant international relief agencies. This is done to ensure cooperation and respond to requests of the concerned state parties in protecting and assisting Internally Displaced Persons. In 2023, the State party participated in the provision of Humanitarian relief to Malawi which was hit with the cyclone leading to persistence flooding and Internally displacing a number of people.
571. The Act further mandates the State party to work with authorities in other countries that are responsible for disaster management to exchange information and have access to international expertise and assistance in respect of disaster management;
572. Under Section 38 of the Act, the State party is required to facilitate requirements for disaster management including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures and place emphasis on measures that reduce the vulnerability of disaster-prone areas, communities and households;
573. To inform timely response and action, the State party guided by section 5(2)(q) of the Act, conducts assessments, before, during and after disasters. Further, the State party undertakes Annual Vulnerability and Needs Assessment to determine household food security. The assessment report informs the State party on the household food security and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification;
574. Under Section 37, sub(2)(b) of the Act, the State party provides relief to the public as the State bears the primary duty and responsibility for providing protection and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and is mandated to provide the essential commodities and other relief to victims of any disaster, hazard or emergency without discrimination;

575. The State party maintains a data collection and dissemination system, and national strategic reserves of essential commodities and equipment for immediate disaster relief. Under this provision, the State party effectively organise, relief action that is humanitarian and guarantees security; and

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

576. One of the guiding principles in the Disaster Risk Management Policy is Protection and the State party bears the primary responsibility for the protection of its people, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters;

577. The State party is guided by the policy for enhanced Emergency Response through Policy objective 3 to enhance Disaster Response mechanisms in order to provide life-saving measures to communities affected by disasters through the following Policy measures:

- a) Enhance capacity for disaster response among stakeholders in Disaster Risk Management;
- b) Facilitate the conduct of rapid assessments to inform primary response; and
- c) Establish and maintain emergency operations centers at the national and sub-national levels;

578. The State party is guided by the developed Guidelines on the Compensation and Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons in the country.

579. The State party works within the guidelines of the established Southern Africa Development Committee (SADC) Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre which is responsible for the coordination of regional disaster preparedness, response and early recovery to support member States. The centre facilitates the supply chain management of equipment and supplies that SADC responders require during deployment of humanitarian support to member States. Zambia signed the Memorandum of Agreement that led to its establishment on 5th July, 2023.

580. To protect and assist persons and communities from natural and man-made disasters including climate change, the State party endorsed the Hyogo framework for Action (2005-2015) for a paradigm shift from disaster management to disaster risk reduction with emphasis on disaster preparedness through risk management and transformation of communities from being disaster vulnerable to being disaster resilient.

581. To provide timely support to the vulnerable communities, the State party undertakes an annual in-depth vulnerability and needs assessment to inform response. Additionally, the State party undertakes Needs Assessments as and when disasters happen. Needs

Assessment are undertaken effectively as the State party has decentralised the management of disasters at District and sub -district levels.

582. The State party through the Disaster Risk Management has advocated for Collaboration as one its guiding principles by closely working with the United Nations System, cooperating partners, non-governmental organizations, and the community to enhance overall disaster resilience, disaster response, preparedness, recovery and rehabilitation.

583. To effectively organise and distribute relief to affected vulnerable communities and persons, the State party is guided by the following international principles:

- a) Humanity: All people affected by disasters shall be treated humanely and equally to alleviate suffering, save lives while ensuring respect for their individual rights and inherent worth;
- b) Impartiality: The provision of humanitarian relief should be based on needs alone and should be provided in proportion of the need;
- c) Neutrality: Humanitarian assistance will be provided based solely on need, without favoritism based on political, religious or other affiliations; and
- d) Inclusivity: Ensuring that disaster risk management efforts are accessible and address the needs of all members of the community, including vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, the chronically ill and persons with disabilities, the homeless migrants and refugees, pregnant women, and low-income communities.

584. Further, the State party recognises the various roles different organisations play in disaster management in the country:

- a) The State party regularly holds consultative and planning meetings with the NGOs on various disaster management operations and strategies. NGOs are encouraged to provide relief and early warning information quickly and appropriately. Effective links with NGOs are promoted at all levels of disaster management and mitigation framework. The State party and NGOs forge partnerships to serve vulnerable and affected communities. A forum between the state and NGOs at national, provincial, district and community levels are formed to address areas of mutual interest.
- b) Cooperating and Development Partners play a pivotal role in supplementing government efforts in the area of strengthening capacities for disaster management and supplementing efforts in mobilising resources for disaster management. They work with the State party at various levels of national Governance.
- c) Disaster Management Teams provides specialised technical agencies such as the UN Agencies are encouraged in disaster management. This includes Coordination, Consolidated Appeals, Resource Mobilisation, Assessments, Monitoring and Evaluation of Disaster Management Operations. Within the

- regional umbrella, the state works and collaborate with SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Unit and all relevant regional bodies handling different aspects of disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation.
- d) Religious organisations provide moral, material and financial support as well as guidance and help mobilise communities and resources during disaster times. The state party and the religious organisations forge partnerships to serve vulnerable and affected communities.
 - e) The private sector mobilises to participate in national disaster risk reduction mechanisms through private and public partnerships and other multi-sectoral platforms with designated responsibilities.
 - f) Civil Society Organisations helps to enhance integrity, impartiality, inclusivity, neutrality accountability and ethical conduct in disaster risk management.
 - g) The Media both public and private is used as platform to promote risk communication and community engagements through a multi-pronged approach.
 - h) Traditional leaders ensure that positive traditional values and customs are upheld and integrated in disaster risk management. They are also champions in strengthening Community based Disaster Risk Management.
 - i) The community is empowered to manage and reduce disaster risk by having access to the necessary information and resources to implement actions for disaster risk reduction;

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

585. Through the guidelines on the management of Internally Displaced Persons, the State party has recognizes that Internally Displaced Persons are entitled to enjoy, on an equal basis with others, the same rights and freedoms under both international and domestic law as all other persons in Zambia. The State party ensures that Internally Displaced Persons are not discriminated against in the enjoyment of any rights and freedoms on the ground that they are internally displaced.
586. The State party provides Humanitarian Assistance to enhance or support livelihoods through the provision of basic services such as education, health, water and security. It also annually prepositions relief (food and non-food items) items to the affected vulnerable communities' country wide in the event of a disaster or internally displaced persons to guarantee food security.
587. The State has continued to collaborate with Humanitarian Organisations such as the United Nations in Zambia, the Red Cross, Oxfam, faith-based organisations and other Non-Governmental Organisations in provision of Humanitarian support to the affected persons.
588. The State party provides rental relief through the payment of rent for a period of three months for the internally Displaced Persons especially those affected by natural causes such as floods.

CHALLENGES

589. Hesitant communities to move permanently to safer areas especially those affected by floods.

84. ARTICLE 6: OBLIGATIONS RELATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

590. In line with the Disaster Management Act, there is an established National Disaster Management Technical Committee. The Technical Committee consist of the following part time members who are appointed by the Vice-President:

- a) The National Coordinator, who shall be the Chairperson;
- b) The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for defence, who shall be the Vice- person;
- c) One Permanent Secretary each from the Ministries responsible for –
 - i. National planning;
 - ii. Local government;
 - iii. Home affairs;
 - iv. Health;
 - v. Energy;
 - vi. Agriculture;
 - vii. Environmental and natural resources;
 - viii. communications;
 - ix. Minerals development;
 - x. Information and broadcasting;
 - xi. Community development; and
 - xii. Works and supply;
- d) A representative of the Zambia Red Cross Society;
- e) The United Nations Resident Coordinator;
- f) A representative of a religious organization.

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

591. In line with the 8NDP, under cluster three on Environmental Sustainability, the State party has set targets on Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation as well as Disaster Response and Recovery.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

592. The State party has developed the guidelines on the Compensation and Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In the guidelines, the State party is mandated to do the following:

- a) All humanitarian assistance shall be carried out in accordance with the principles of humanity and impartiality and without discrimination;
- b) Humanitarian assistance to Internally Displaced Persons shall not be diverted, in particular for political and or other reasons;
- c) The primary duty and responsibility for providing humanitarian assistance to Internally Displaced Persons lies with the Government; and
- d) International humanitarian organisations and other appropriate actors may offer their services in support of the internally displaced as a way of complementing Government efforts.

85. ARTICLE 9 OBLIGATIONS OF STATE PARTIES RELATING TO PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE DURING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

593. The Disaster Management Act provides for the establishment of the National Disaster Relief Trust Fund. The Trust Fund comprises –

- a) such moneys as Parliament may appropriate for the purpose of the trust fund;
- b) voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund from any person or organisation;
- c) any grants mobilized from any source within or outside Zambia for the purpose of disaster management; and
- d) interest arising out of any investment of the Trust Fund.

Further, the Trust Fund is meant for –

- a) the Provision of essential commodities and other relief to victims of any disaster, hazard or emergency;
- b) the restoration, reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas affected by any disaster, hazard or emergency;
- c) the payment of any compensation due to a person under this Act;
- d) the operations of the Provincial Committees, District Committees and Satellite Committees in the management of disasters in their areas; and
- e) any other matter relating to the preparedness, prevention, mitigation of, and recovery from, disasters.

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

594. The State party in line with the National Disaster Risk Management Policy has put the following objectives to ensure that person (or a group of persons) who has been forced or obliged to flee or leave his or her home or place of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, riots, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters and who has not crossed an internationally recognised State border enjoy the protection in line with International Humanitarian Law governing the status of internally-displaced persons:

- i. To reduce disaster risk and enhance climate change adaptation in order to avert and minimise the impact of disasters on communities, infrastructure and the environment;
- ii. To strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response and build back better in recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation;
- iii. To enhance Disaster Response mechanisms in order to provide life -saving measures to communities affected by droughts;
- iv. To strengthen coordination mechanisms for harmonisation of national efforts to effectively and efficiently implement disaster risk management programmes;
- v. To reduce inequalities in disaster risk management; and
- vi. To strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems.

595. The State party through the National Resettlement Policy makes provision of basic services in resettlement schemes through the following measures:

- a) Enhanced provision of health, education and security services;
- b) Enhanced access to safe and clean water and adequate sanitation;
- c) Enhanced transport access to infrastructure and mobility;
- d) Enhanced access to digital technologies and modern ICTs; and
- e) Continued Facilitation of the access to affordable and clean energy.

596. The State party undertakes periodic Monitoring and Evaluation exercises to ascertain consistency and effectiveness and impact of the humanitarian assistance delivered to the Internally Displaced Persons.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

597. The State party develops an Annual National Contingency Plan which informs relief pipeline and distribution of relief to the identified vulnerable communities.

598. The State party has continued to formulate National Disaster Preparedness Plans to inform resource mobilisation as well as enhance mitigation.

599. The State party recognises the rights of the internally Displaced People which are protected by law. Any attacks or other acts of violence against Internally Displaced

Persons are prohibited in all circumstances. The State ensures that Internally Displaced Persons are protected, in particular, against murder and direct or indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence against their camps or settlements.

600. The State party ensures that Internally Displaced Persons are not confined to a camp. If in exceptional circumstances such as internment or confinement is absolutely necessary, it shall not last longer than required by the circumstances.
601. The State provides rental relief for 3 months to persons affected whose households becomes inhabitable in circumstances such as floods leading to displacements. The State party also ensures that Internally Displaced Persons or their host communities respect and not attack or otherwise harm humanitarian personnel, resources or other materials deployed for their assistance or benefit.
602. The State party always ensures that Internally Displaced Persons are informed or consulted about resettlement options available. In the event of displacement as a result of a disaster, the State and other relevant stakeholders provide temporal or camp shelter and food rations for an agreed specific period of time to the displaced. It also ensures that special efforts are made to ensure that full participation of women in the planning and distribution of the basic supplies. Further, when necessary, the State party provides psychological and social services to the Internally Displaced People.
603. The State party through various polices ensures that gender mainstreaming and special attention is paid to the health needs of women, including access to female health care providers and services such as reproductive health care. Special attention is also given to the prevention of contagious and infectious diseases, including AIDS, among Internally Displaced Persons as well as appropriate counselling for victims of sexual and other abuses;
604. The State party further, ensures that Property and possessions of Internally Displaced Persons are in all circumstances protected, in particular, against pillage, direct or indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence, being made the object of reprisal and being destroyed or appropriated. Furthermore, property and possessions left behind by Internally Displaced Persons is protected against destruction and arbitrary and illegal appropriation, occupation or use.

CHALLENGES

605. Some Displaced persons especially from floods are unwilling to permanently relocate to safe areas.

86. ARTICLE 10 DISPLACEMENTS INDUCED BY PROJECTS

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

606. The State party is guided by the Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011 to ensure that there is prevention of displacements caused by projects carried out by the public or private actors.
607. Under section 9 of the Environmental Management Act, the State party is required to review Environmental Impact Assessment Reports and Strategic Environmental Assessment Reports. This is done to address displacements caused by development projects.
608. Further, under section 23, the State party undertakes and prepares strategic environmental assessment reports which includes -
- a) a full description of the policy, programme or plan and the objectives it intends to achieve;
 - b) an identification, description and assessment of the positive and adverse effects that the implementation of the policy, programme or plan is likely to have on the environment and on the sustainable management of natural resources;
 - c) an identification, description and assessment of the likely effects of the alternative means to achieve the policy, programme or plan;
 - d) an identification, description and assessment of a range of practicable measures that could be taken to avoid, mitigate or remedy any adverse effect that may occur as a result of the implementation of the policy, programme or plan; and
 - e) any other information prescribed by the Minister, by statutory instrument.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

609. In the event of displacement as a result of a development project, the State party ensures that the developer provides permanent and mutually agreed upon dwellings following national standards to the displaced persons and that such displacements are effected in satisfactory conditions of safety, health and hygiene, and that members of the same family are not separated;
610. The State party has continued multi sectoral engagements of state actors such as the Office of the Vice President, Zambia Development Agency, Zambia Association of Manufacturers and the Zambia Environmental Management Agency in the management of Internally Displaced Persons during project development.
611. The State party ensures that there is provision of alternative land for the displaced persons. i.e the Mumbwa Amatheon people were displaced and alternative land was allocated to them in mumbwa resettlement. Further during the development of the

Gorvix uranium mining company, in Gwembe District people were displaced and alternative land was given to the displaced people;

612. The State negotiates with the developer on behalf of the communities affected for the provision of basic services such as Education, Health, water and sanitation as well as security;
613. The State has developed an assessment tool for assessing all displacements caused by projects. Key component in this is the part of the free informed consent on the part of the respondents;
614. The State develops the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) to guide the resettlement process of the Internally displaced persons;
615. The State undertakes or part of the negotiations for the compensation agreements on behalf of the community to ensure that Fair Compensation is upheld;

CHALLENGES

616. Resistance by some displaced persons to relocate to alternative land, resettlement schemes and sometimes refuse compensation;
617. Possible collusion of the investors/developers with community leaders to under compensate the Internally Displaced People in most cases; and

87. ARTICLE 11: OBLIGATIONS OF STATES PARTIES RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE RETURN, LOCAL INTEGRATION OR RELOCATION

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

618. The State party has 106 resettlement schemes country wide to resettle Internally Displaced Persons. This creates satisfactory and promotes for voluntary resettlements and integration of the Internally Displaced Persons with safety and dignity.
619. The State party has developed the Guidelines on the Compensation and Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons in the country.
620. To ensure full participation of the Internally Displaced Persons to make free and informed decisions on whether to return, the State party engages the Internally Displaced Persons through the District Disaster Management Committees and the Satellite Disaster Management Committees. The committees at both levels engages the communities for decision making.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

621. The State party works closely with international humanitarian organizations and other appropriate actors, in the exercise of their respective mandates access to Internally Displaced Persons to assist in their return or resettlement and reintegration.
622. The State has the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide means, which allow Internally Displaced Persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to the homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country. The State shall endeavour to facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled internally displaced persons.
623. The State ensures that Internally Displaced Persons resettled in resettlement schemes are provided with start-up pack farming agricultural inputs, settlers are provided with training to be more agricultural productive and general provision of basic services such as water, health and education for improved livelihoods.
624. For Lusaka District, the State party has embarked on a project or intervention called “Drain Lusaka Project”. The project is aimed at improving the road and drainage networks which will trigger the internal displacement of certain persons to resettlement schemes.
625. The State has commenced the construction of smart houses in resettlement schemes which are smart and climate resilient.
626. The State party has continued collaboration with the UN System in the country, the private Sector and the Non -Governmental Organisations to improve the funding and technical gaps towards resettlement development in areas such as water provision, construction of roads, clinics and schools as well as enhance market linkages.
627. The State party makes special efforts to ensure full participation of Internally Displaced Persons in the Planning and management of their return or resettlement and reintegration.
628. The State party ensures that Internally Displaced Persons who returns to their homes or places of habitual residence or who have resettled in another part of the country are not be discriminated against as a result of there having been displaced. They IDPs have the right to participate fully and equally in public affairs at all levels and have equal access to public services; and
629. The State party has the duty and responsibility to assist returned /and or resettled Internally Displaced Persons to recover, to the extent possible.

CHALLENGES;

630. Lack of Legislation for resettlement management programme affecting the overall coordination and management of Internally Displacement of Persons. However, the State party is in the process of commencing consultations for the legislation of the resettlement management programme.

88. ARTICLE 12: COMPENSATION

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

631. The State guided by the Disaster Management Act provides for the payment of any compensation due to a person under the Act.

632. The State party through section 20 of the Environmental Management Act is mandated to review and develop Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. These reports determine Compensation.

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

633. The State party is implementing the National Resettlement Policy which advocates for Fair Compensation as one of the Guiding Principles.

634. State actors such as the Office of the Vice President, Zambia Environmental Agency and Zambia Development Agency collaborate to ensure that the affected persons are fairly compensated in the event of induced projects.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

635. The State party provides rental relief for a period of three months to Internally Displaced Persons to pay for accommodation of their choice;

636. The State party in line with its resettlement policy guidelines ensures that the Investor /developer provides prompt and effective compensation at market and /or full replacement cost whichever is higher for losses of livelihoods, assets and loss of access to the assets attributable directly to the project;

637. The State ensures that the developer or investor is made to include the costs of resettlement and compensation in the presentation of project costs and benefits;

638. The State party ensures that absence of a formal legal title to land by some affected groups is not a hindrance to compensation and particular attention should be paid to households headed by women and other vulnerable groups.

CHALLENGES

639. Some projects not addressing the needs detailed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report;
640. Internally Displaced Persons unwilling to be resettled to resettlement schemes citing under development or less provision of social amenities;
641. Possible collusion of the investors/developers with community leaders to under compensate the Internally Displaced People in most cases; and
642. Developers /Investors in most cases rush to compensate the Internally Displaced Persons without meeting the required or agreed up needs.

89. ARTICLE 13: REGISTRATION AND PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

643. The State party has an updated register of all Internally Displaced Persons. In the event of a disaster, the State working with community leaders, civil society as well as humanitarian organisations records the names of the affected households after a detailed needs assessment is undertaken and update the register;
644. The State party issues undertake a detailed a needs assessment to take stock of all damaged property including documents of the Internally Displaced Persons;
645. The State party in its guidelines for the compensation and resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) set the following guidelines:
 - a) In the event of loss of documentation due to displacement, the State party through the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security facilitates the issuance of the necessary documents such as passports, National Registration Cards and Marriage Certificates to the Internally Displaced Persons for the enjoyment of their legal rights; and
 - b) Government has plans to ensure that Internally Displaced Persons are issued with Personal identification documents for purposes of identifying them as Internally Displaced Persons.



REOUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

ANNEXES

- LEGISLATION
- POLICIES
- CASES

90. ANNEXES

A. LEGISLATION

1. Adoption Act Chapter 54 of the Laws of Zambia
2. Affiliation and Maintenance of Children Act Chapter 64 of the Laws of Zambia
3. Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011
4. Anti-Human Trafficking Act No. 11 of 2008
5. Anti-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation Act No. 6 of 2007
6. Citizenship Act No. 33 of 2016
7. Citizen's Economic Empowerment Act No. 9 of 2006
8. Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 24 of 2010
9. Constituency Development Fund Act No. 11 of 2018
10. Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016
11. Criminal Procedure Code Chapter 88 of the Laws of Zambia
12. Defence Act Chapter 106 of the Laws of Zambia
13. Education Act No. 23 of 2011
14. Electoral Process Act No. 35 of 2016
15. Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019
16. Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011
17. Factories Act Chapter 441 of the Laws of Zambia
18. Financial Intelligence Centre Act No. 46 of 2010
19. Food and Drugs Act Chapter 303 of the Laws of Zambia
20. Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015
21. Health Professions Act No. 24 of 2009
22. Higher Education Act No. 4 of 2013
23. Housing (Statutory and Improvement Areas) Act – repealed by the Urban and Regional Planning Act
24. Immigration and Deportation Act No. 18 of 2010
25. Independent Broadcasting Authority Act No. 17 of 2002
26. Industrial and Labour Relations Act Chapter 269 of the Laws of Zambia
27. Industrial Designs Act No. 22 of 2016
28. InteState Succession Act Chapter 59 of the Laws of Zambia
29. Juveniles Act Chapter 53 of the Laws of Zambia
30. Lands Act Chapter 184 of the Laws of Zambia
31. Lands Acquisition Act Chapter 189 of the Laws of Zambia
32. Lands and Deeds Registry Act Chapter 185 of the Laws of Zambia
33. Legal Aid Act Chapter 34 of the Laws of Zambia
34. Legitimacy Act Chapter 52 of the Laws of Zambia

35. Local Courts Act Chapter 29 of the Laws of Zambia
36. The Local Government Act No.2 of 2019 of the Laws of Zambia
37. Marriage Act Chapter 50 of the Laws of Zambia
38. Matrimonial Causes Act No. 20 of 2007
39. Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013
40. Mental Health Act No. 6 of 2019
41. Mines and Minerals Development Act No. 11 of 2015
42. Movable Property (Security Interest) Act No. 3 of 2016
43. National Arts Council Act Chapter 170 of the Laws of Zambia
44. National Health Insurance Act No. 2 of 2018
45. National Health Research Act No. 2 of 2013
46. National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council Act No. 10 of 2002.
47. Non-Governmental Organisations Act No. 16 of 2009
48. Nurses and Midwives Act No. 10 of 2019
49. Occupational Health and Safety Act No. 36 of 2010
50. Passport Act No. 28 of 2016
51. Patents Act No. 40 of 2016
52. Penal Code Act Chapter 88 of the Laws of Zambia
53. Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012
54. Police Public Complaints Commission Act No. 18 of 2016
55. Prisons Act Chapter 97 of the Laws of Zambia
56. Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore Act No.16 of 2016
57. Public Finance Management Act No. 1 of 2018
58. Public Health Act Chapter 295 of the Laws of Zambia
59. Public Order Act Chapter 113 of the Laws of Zambia
60. Ratification of International Agreements Act No. 34 of 2016
61. Refugees Act No. 1 of 2017
62. Societies Act Chapter 119 of the Laws of Zambia
63. Solid Waste Regulation and Management Act No. 20 of 2018
64. Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018
65. Superior Courts (Number of Judges) Act No. 9 of 2016
66. Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Act No. 13 of 1998
67. Termination of Pregnancy Act Cap 297 of the Laws of Zambia
68. Trademarks Act Chapter 401 of the Laws of Zambia
69. Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 3 of 2015
70. Water Resources Management Act No. 21 of 2011
71. Water Supply and Sanitation Act No. 28 of 1997
72. Wills and Administration of TeState EStates Act Chapter 60 of the Laws of Zambia
73. Zambia Development Agency Act No. 11 of 2006
74. Zambia Police Act Chapter 107 of the Laws of Zambia

B. POLICIES

1. Child Welfare Policy 2015
2. Early Child Education Policy 2014
3. Intellectual Property Policy 2010
4. National Child Policy 2006 revised in 2015
5. National Child Policy 2015
6. National Climate Change Policy 2017
7. National Cultural Policy 2003
8. National Decentralisation Policy 2002 revised in 2013
9. National Education Policy 1996
10. National Employment and Labour Market Policy 2005 revised in 2019
11. National Environmental Policy 2005
12. National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Policy 2005
13. National Food & Nutrition Policy 2006
14. National Gender Policy 2000 revised in 2014
15. Non-the State Party Organisations' Policy 2018
16. National Health Policy 2012
17. National Housing Policy 2012
18. National Legal Aid Policy 2018
19. National Planning and Budgeting Policy 2018
20. National Policy on Ageing 2015
21. National Policy on Child Labour 2011
22. National Policy on Disability 2015
23. National Policy on Persons with Disabilities 2025
24. National Policy on the Environment 2009
25. National School Health and Nutrition Policy 2006
26. National Water Policy 2010
27. National Youth Policy 2015
28. National Policy on Disability 2015
29. National Resettlement Policy 2015
30. National Social Protection Policy 2014
31. National Social Protection Policy 2025
32. National Water Policy 2010
33. National Youth Policy 2015
34. Re-entry Policy 1997
35. TEVET Policy 1996
36. User Fee Removal Policy 2006
37. Youth Employment and Empowerment Action Plan 2015
38. Zambianisation Policy

C. CASES

1. Attorney-General v Clarke 96A/2004 [2008] ZMSC 4
2. Brotherton N.O. v Electoral Commission of Zambia (2016/CC/0013)
Selected Judgment No. 34 of 2017
3. Chipenzi and others vs. The People HPR/03/2014 [2014] ZMHC 112
4. Christine Mulundika and others vs. the People SCZ Judgement No. 25 of 1995
5. Geoffrey Elliam Mithi v Mopani Cooper Mines 2014/HB/48 (*Unreported*)
6. Godfrey Malembeka (suing in his capacity as Executive Director of Prisons Care and Counselling Association) v Attorney General and Electoral Commission of Zambia (2016/CC/0013) Selected Judgment No. 34 of 2017
7. Longwe v Intercontinental Hotel 1992/HP/765
8. Mwewa and Others vs Attorney General and others [2017] ZMHC 77
9. Nawakwi v Attorney-General [1991] ZMHC 6
10. Resident Doctors Association of Zambia vs. The Attorney General (SCZ) Judgment No. 12 of 2003
11. Sata v Post Newspapers Ltd and Another [1995] HC 1
12. Stanley Kangaibe and Charles Chookole vs. The Attorney-General (2009) HL/86 (unreported)
13. The People v Kasonkomona HP/42/2015 [2015] ZMHC 22