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## **National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21\***

### **Zambia**

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



## Forward

I am pleased to submit the Fourth Cycle National Report on the Universal Periodic Review. The Report demonstrates how Zambia has continued to implement its obligations to promote and protect human rights as provided for under International Human Rights Law.

In its effort to respect, promote and fulfill its human rights obligations, during the period under review, Zambia 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.

In addition, in furtherance of the right to participation in public affairs and right to vote, Zambia amended the Electoral Process Act to facilitate voting of persons in lawful custody. In this regard, all eligible inmates voted for the first time in the 2021 General Election.

I wish to mention that Zambia faced various challenges during the implementation of the third cycle that included the global economic crunch, financial constraints which had competing needs such as the holding of the 2021 General Elections and the unplanned expenditure in dealing with emerging issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notwithstanding the above challenges, the Zambia remained resolute to the upholding of human rights standards.

Owing to huge financial and human resource requirements, Zambia will continue to seek financial and technical support from international cooperating partners towards enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights.

As I conclude, I wish to indicate that Zambia has in place the Eighth National Development Plan (2022-2026) which has, equally, incorporated activities intended to actualise human rights standards.

Hon. Mulambo Haimbe, SC, M.P  
Minister of Justice  
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

## Acronyms

7NDP	Seventh National Development Plan;
8NDP	Eighth National Development Plan;
AFHS	Adolescent-Friendly Health Services;
CSEN	Children with Special Education Needs;
GBV	Gender- Based Violence;
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia;
IBA	Independence Broadcasting Authority;
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
IOM	International Organisation for Migration;
ILO	International Labour Organisation;
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management;
NHRI	National Human Rights Institute;
NMIRF	National Mechanism for Implementation Reporting & Follow-up;
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture;
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict;
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
OPIC	Optional Protocol to the Conventions of the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure;
OP-ICCPR	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
PPCC	Police Public Complaints Commission;
PWA	People With Albinism;
SI	Statutory Instrument;
SCTS	Social Cash Transfer Scheme;
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals;
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
UNICEF	United Nations Children's fund;
UN	United Nations;
VSU	Victim Support Unit;
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
ZAMSTATS	Zambia Statistical Agency;
ZLDC	Zambia Law Development Commission;

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## **I. Process for the preparation of the report**

### **Introduction**

1. The Fourth Cycle National Report of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was prepared by the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Justice in line with Gazette Notice No. 543 of 2003. This Gazette Notice mandates the Ministry of Justice to deal with matters relating to human rights and governance.

### **Background to the fourth cycle report**

2. The Fourth Cycle of this UPR Report was prepared based on recommendations from of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Third UPR Working Group which was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 6<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. The review of Zambia was conducted at the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, and was facilitated by the Troika that consisted of China, Kenya and Switzerland.

### **Recommendations from the third cycle report**

3. During the review, Zambia supported a total of ninety (90), deferred two (2) and noted a total of one hundred and eleven (111) which had to be subjected to stakeholders' consultations.

4. On 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, the Ministry of Justice held a meeting with stakeholders to review the outcomes of the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group. Following that meeting, Zambia, supported an additional 93 recommendations bringing the total to 183 out of 203 representing a 90% acceptance rate.

5. The preparation of the Report was based on the recommendations arising from the third cycle of the UPR in 2017. The Report also highlights issues that emerged during the period under review.

### **Methodology**

6. In order to initiate the process of preparing the Report, the Ministry of Justice appointed a Secretariat which was mandated with planning, coordination, collection and compilation of information/data. The Ministry also engaged stakeholders during the preparation of this Report.

### **National follow-up process**

7. During the period under review relevant stakeholders underwent training by the United Nations Regional Office on Human Rights based in Pretoria, South Africa, in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme Office in Zambia. This training culminated into the drafting of the National Action Plan and the establishment of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF).

### **Institutional consultations**

8. During the preparation of the Report, the Secretariat made intensive consultations with stakeholders.

### **Data/information collection**

9. The Ministry of Justice, through the Secretariat, conducted desk reviews of publications with information on the implementation of human rights in order to respond to the recommendations received from the third UPR cycle.

### **Compilation of the report and validation**

10. The information collected was compiled into a draft UPR Report which was then subjected to validation by relevant stakeholders. All comments from the validation workshop were incorporated into the final Report.

### **Clearance of the report by government**

11. The final Report was submitted to Cabinet for approval, after which it was submitted to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

12. The succeeding sections of the Report analyses the following:

- (a) Status of the implementation of recommendations;
- (b) New and emerging issues, including advances and challenges in that regard; and
- (c) Recommendations which would require the support of the international community.

## **II. Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycles**

### **A. Full implementation of recommendations**

#### **Introduction**

13. This section of the Report analyses the state of recommendations from the third cycle of the UPR that have been fully implemented.

#### **Theme A3: Inter-state cooperation and development assistance**

##### *Efforts to seek technical assistance to meet human rights targets*

14. The State party's effort to seek technical assistance to meet its human rights targets is anchored on the implementation of the National Development Plans. During the period under review, resources were mobilized under the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) through both bilateral and multilateral agreements within the principle of "Zambia Plus."

#### **Theme A12: Acceptance of international norms**

##### *Ratify the convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide*

15. In April 2022, the State party acceded to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in line with the provisions of Article 63 of the Constitution of Zambia, 2016 and Section 5 of the Ratification of International Agreements Act No. 34 of 2016.

**Theme A23: Follow-up to treaty bodies**

*Implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the context of its national policy on children*

16. The State party is implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the context of the National Child Policy which is an integral part of the national development process. The Policy provides a framework for responding to the concerns, needs and welfare of all children in Zambia. Most importantly, the State party enacted the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022, to harmonise all the laws relating to children.

**Theme A24: Cooperation with special procedures**

*Engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms to implement the recommendations*

17. During the period under review, the State party engaged the United Nations Mechanisms in the following areas that were aimed at enhancing the implementation of the UPR recommendations:

(a) Capacity building training on Treaty Body reporting in 2017. The workshop was facilitated by the Pretoria based Regional Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for Southern Africa (OHCHR);

(b) Development and awareness raising of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) under COVID 19 pandemic in 2020. The SOP was developed in order to unify Police operations in a standardised manner with emphasis on upholding of human rights;

(c) Establishment of a public information platform on the National Mechanism for Implementation Reporting and Follow-up in 2019;

(d) Maternal health care and HIV/AIDS under health sector;

(e) Consultations on Children's Code Bill; and

(f) Stakeholder engagement on the review of the Public Order Act Chapter 113 of the Laws of Zambia in 2021.

**Theme A41: Constitutional and legislative framework**

*Incorporation of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into domestic legislation*

18. The State party has incorporated provisions of the CEDAW in the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015.

**Theme A42: Institutions and policies – general**

*Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan*

19. The State party completed the implementation of the 7NDP in 2021, which focused on economic diversification and job creation; poverty and vulnerability reduction; reduced developmental inequalities; enhanced human development; and an enhanced governance environment for a diversified and inclusive economy.

20. Through this Plan, a number of issues relating to human rights were addressed. Notable achievements include the following:

(a) Construction of six gender-based violence fast track courts;

(b) Decentralisation and strengthening of the National Prosecution Authority;

(c) Construction of two modern correctional facilities;

(d) Formulation of the National Legal Aid and Policy; and

- (e) Development of a legal framework to support the establishment of Parole Boards.

*Development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy on population and education*

21. The State party developed a National Strategy on Financial Education (2019-2024). The overall strategic objective is for the Zambian population to have improved knowledge, understanding, skills, motivation, and confidence to help them secure positive financial outcomes for themselves and their families by 2024.

*Support to Office of the Commissioner for Children*

22. The State party's Office of the Commissioner for Children is supported by the social welfare workforce which is present in all districts. The State party has been implementing projects to address a number of issues, including sexual and reproductive health care of adolescents.

*Policy to combat gender-based violence against women and girls*

23. The State party put in place the following policies and guidelines to combat Gender Based Violence:

- (a) National Gender Policy;
- (b) National Referral Mechanism on Gender Based Violence and Violence against Children;
- (c) National Guidelines for the Multidisciplinary Management of Survivors of Gender Based Violence in Zambia; and
- (d) The National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage in Zambia 2016-2021.

*Establishment of a transparent public service*

24. The State party has incorporated non-state actors in the development and implementation of the National Development Plans and enacted the National Budget and Planning Act No. 1 of 2022, which enhances transparency in the formulation of national budget.

25. The State party devolved more tasks to local authority level in 2021 in a bid to increase service delivery at local level. These measures have increased transparency and accountability.

26. The State party has also continued to establish integrity committees in public and private institutions in order to enhance transparency and accountability.

**Theme A43: Human rights policies**

*Resource mobilisation to enhance capacity to fulfil human rights obligations*

27. During the period under review, the State party facilitated mobilisation of resources from various Cooperating Partners for the promotion and protection of human rights and access to justice. Resources were mobilized for:

- (a) decentralisation of the Legal Aid Board;
- (b) strengthening capacity of the Human Rights Commission to carry out its mandate;
- (c) review and strengthening of the legal framework such as Public Order Act; and
- (d) development of standard operating procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic and policing during elections.



*Continuity in promoting the national human rights policies, especially in the field of economic, social and cultural rights*

28. The State party has continued to implement its national human rights policies, especially in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, as observed. The State party has implemented the following measures:

- (a) free education from pre-primary to secondary;
- (b) social cash transfer; and
- (c) recruitment of additional health workers and teachers.

#### **Theme A51: Human rights education – general**

*Utilize human rights training and education as a way to mainstream the promotion of the rights of women and children*

29. The State party, has been conducting various human rights education training on matters relating to gender and mainstreaming in institutions. Further, Zambia has included human rights education in the curriculum of schools and training centres.

#### **Theme A53: Professional training in human rights**

*Efforts to include human rights issues in the training programmes for military and security personnel*

30. The State party has endeavored to broaden the human rights knowledge through the curriculum offered at various Military Training Schools. The curriculum inculcates the need to observe human rights during military deployments and peace support operations.

#### **Theme A63: Budget and resources (for human rights implementation)**

*Application of the principle of non-discrimination to the most vulnerable groups to access health care and education*

31. The State party has continued to uphold the principle of non-discrimination through its policy frameworks which provide for delivery of healthcare and education services without discrimination. Further, the State party continues to train healthcare workers and teachers in ethics and the legal implications of discrimination.

#### **Theme B31: Equality and non-discrimination**

*Development of a legal framework for elimination of discrimination based on sex, race or disability*

32. The State party remained resolute in its efforts to enhance human rights for the well-being of all persons without discrimination based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. 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; and
- (c) the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015.

*Awareness-raising to end the discrimination on gender based violence against women as well as child marriage*

33. In order to address the problem of discrimination based on gender and violence against women and girls including child marriages, the State party has continued to raise awareness amongst members of the general public.

34. The State party has also been conducting awareness aimed at addressing early child marriages during the commemoration of days such as the international day of the elimination of violence against women (16 Days of Gender Activism), International Women's Day, Youth Day and International Day of the Girl Child.

*Promote non-discrimination and inclusion campaigns with particular focus on migrants and people with albinism*

35. The State party is implementing the following measures to promote the welfare of Persons with Albinism (PWA):

(a) Supporting the publishing of a handbook called "Living with Albinism in Zambia" which is aimed at teaching children and the general populous on the Albinism thereby promoting their welfare;

(b) Data collection on PWA through Census of Population and Housing;

(c) Occasional purchase and free distribution of sunscreen lotions for PWA; and

(d) Hosting cancer clinics where PWA go for cancer treatment and covering medical bills for some of them.

36. With regard to the welfare of Migrants, the State party developed a National Migration Profile and the Migration Governance Indicators (MGIs) aimed at the development of the National Migration Policy. The development of the migration profile contributed to increased awareness and understanding of migration issues.

#### **Theme B71: Human rights and the environment**

*Measures to protect human rights and environment in mining areas*

37. Under the Mines and Minerals Development Act No. 11 of 2011, Section 4(C) provides that the exploitation of minerals shall ensure safety, health and environmental protection. In order to protect the environment and enhance safety as well as security during mining operations, the State party has put in place the following measures, among others:

(a) Establish a security system to limit and control access by youths to the mine site; and

(b) Ensure that every worker accessing the site has the appropriate personal protective equipment.

38. In order to enhance the protection of human rights and the environment in mining areas, the State party has developed the Environmental Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022, to provide for registration of toxic substances such as mercury prior to their use.

*Regulatory framework for mining companies to ensure safety in the immediate environment*

39. The State party has, in place, a regulatory framework for mining companies to ensure safety in the immediate environment. These include the Mines and Minerals Development Act No. 11 of 2015, and Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011. Under these Acts mining companies are obligated to avoid harming the immediate environment.

40. In an effort to strengthen the regulatory framework, the State party has developed Environmental Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which will provide for all mining projects to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that requires adequate mitigation measures are put in place to protect people's human rights within the proximity of mining areas. ZEMA undertakes compliance monitoring to ascertain the status of approval conditions.

*Preservation of the environment on agricultural development (no use of internationally banned pesticides)*

41. The State party continues to preserve the environment through the enforcement of the legal framework such as the Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011 and the

Environmental Management (Licencing) Regulations Statutory Instrument No. 112 of 2013 which prohibits the use of internationally banned pesticides.

42. Further, the proposed Environmental Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022, will enhance the licensing system for ZEMA to regulate use of pesticides.

#### **Theme D6: Rights related to name, identity, nationality**

##### *Programme to boost birth registration to outlying areas*

43. The State party commenced implementing an Integrated National Registration Information System (INRIS) in order to boost birth registration. INRIS is the national and civil registration management system which is intended to provide biometric-enabled National Registration Cards (NRCs) and issuance of birth and death certificates. The State party has also developed a National Civil Registration Policy of 2022 and decentralised the registration process to district and sub-district levels. Further, the State party has been carrying out sensitisation programmes targeting the general public including traditional leaders and other change agents.

#### **Theme D21: Right to life**

##### *Address the situation of persons with albinism, assuring them protection against attacks and killings*

44. The State party has continued to enforce existing laws aimed at protecting persons with albinism against attacks and killings. Persons with Albinism like all persons in Zambia enjoy all fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in Article 23 of the Constitution of Zambia. Their rights and freedoms are also protected under the Penal Code, Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia and the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012.

45. The State party has also been working with PWA organisations such as the Albinism Foundation of Zambia, Zambia Albinism Matters Organisation and Under the Same Sun, among others, to promote interests and the welfare of PWAs. Currently, the State party is undertaking a situation analysis on the PWA so as to provide appropriate measures and interventions.

#### **Theme D27: Prohibition of slavery and trafficking**

##### *Efforts to combat human trafficking*

46. The State party has maintained efforts to prevent human trafficking. During the period under review, the status of human trafficking exhibited a downward trend from twenty-three (23) recorded in 2016 to ten (10) recorded in 2021.

47. The State party also continued to implement the 2018-2021 National Action Plan which was reviewed to cover a period of four years from 2022-2024 and started to implement the national referral mechanism for human trafficking victims. Further, during the period under review, the State party enacted the Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019 and has developed the Anti-Human Trafficking (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

#### **Theme E1: Economic, social and cultural rights – general measures of implementation**

##### *Promote economic and social sustainable development, raise people's standard of living and lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights*

48. In an effort to promote economic and social sustainable development to raise people's standard of living and lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights, the State party implemented the 7NDP (2017-2021). Under this Plan, the State party put in place measures to enhance technical education, vocational and entrepreneurship development as a means for job and wealth creation.

49. The State party launched the 8NDP in 2022 whose theme is “**Social Economic Transformation for improved Livelihoods,**” which seeks to pursue growth that transforms the livelihood of the people. The theme will be actualized through four Strategic Development Areas which include: Economic Transformation and Job Creation; Human and Social; Environmental Sustainability; and Good Governance Environment.

*Strengthen public policies to address economic and social challenges, particularly in the area of health, such as access to drinking water*

50. The State party has continued to implement the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme which contributes to improved and equitable access to safe drinking water in line with the State party's Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

51. During the period under review, the State party scrapped off fees for application, registration and annual fees to drill domestic boreholes. Additionally, the State party together with partners embarked on drilling of boreholes to increase access to safe water in rural areas.

52. The State party created the Department of Health Promotion, Environment and Social Determinants under the Ministry responsible for Water Development and Sanitation to strengthen preventive and promotive aspects including safe water.

#### **Theme E24: Right to social security**

*Enhancement of social protection policy and continuously monitor and evaluate its social cash transfer programme*

53. The State party has continued to raise people's standard of living through programmes aimed at protecting the targeted vulnerable groups. The number of beneficiaries for social protection programmes have continued to increase under the Social Cash Transfer programme. The number of beneficiary households increased from 180,261 in 2017, to 973,323 in 2022, against the projected case load of 1,027,000 beneficiaries for the year 2022, representing a 95% increase.

54. In order to ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation of the Social Cash Transfer Programme, the following measures have been put in place:

- (a) Quarterly monitoring at HQ, Provincial, District and Community levels;
- (b) Strengthening the capacity of Internal Audit to carry out regular audits;
- (c) Regular Spot checks are done where necessary;
- (d) Introduction of digital payments through the Zambia Integrated Social Protection Information System (ZISPIS);
- (e) Introduction and roll out of a Grievance Redress Mechanism System, which enables stakeholders to lodge in complaints related to Social Cash Transfer implementation; and
- (f) Introduction and roll out of Financial Management Systems, that is, Microsoft Dynamics 365 system for budgeting, reporting, general accounting and management of the Social Cash Transfer.

*Mechanisms to ensure that pregnant and breastfeeding women are not left behind*

55. The State party prioritises pregnant and breastfeeding women in the targeting mechanism of various social protection interventions being implemented such as Social Cash Transfer, Child Welfare and Protection Programmes and Public Welfare Assistance Scheme (PWAS), among others.

56. Pregnant and breastfeeding mothers are prioritised under the Social Cash Transfer 1000 days Manual of Operations guidelines which targets the first 1000 days to ensure that the child's cognitive development is enhanced.

**Theme E31: Right to work***Policies to strengthen and protect the human rights of people working in the mining sector*

57. The State party has conducted a baseline survey to identify the gaps in human rights policies in the mining sector. The findings reveal that there are no specific human rights policies to enhance enjoyment of human rights in this sector. However, the primary law governing the mining sector is the Mines and Minerals Development Act No. 11 of 2015. The Act provides for mining rights, large-scale mining rights, health and safety and environmental protection.

58. The State party has reviewed the Mineral Resource Development Policy of 2013 which has been aligned to regional and global development framework such as AU-African Mining Vision and the UN-SDGs.

**Theme E41: Right to health – general***Funding to the health sector in line with the Abuja declaration*

59. The State party is making strides to meet the Abuja Declaration levels of funding. However, the State party has not yet reached the Abuja declaration target of 15%. Under the 2022 budget, the State party's health sector budget stood at 8% of the national budget. In the year 2022, the State party employed 11,276 health workers who have been deployed. As a demonstration of the State party's commitment to meeting the Abuja Declaration, in the year 2023, at least 10.4 % of the National Budget has been committed to the health sector.

*Develop adolescent-sensitive and confidential counselling services in the area of sexual and reproductive health care*

60. The State party developed the National Standards and Guidelines for Provision of Adolescent-Friendly Health Services (AFHS) which address the special needs of adolescents in terms of confidentiality, privacy, accessibility and affordability. In addition, the State party has established adolescent health spaces in 53% of health facilities in order to increase access to sexual reproductive health services to adolescents.

61. The State party has established an Adolescent health unit in the department of Public Health to specifically strengthen the provision of sexual reproductive health services for adolescents.

62. The State party has also introduced training of health care providers to provide services that are inclusive to adolescents with disabilities.

63. In addition, the State party is working with non-state actors who provide sexual and reproductive health services, counselling and information to adolescents around the country.

*Inclusivity of national health and HIV policies*

64. The State party's National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council has the mandate to coordinate and monitor the national response to HIV among implementing partners. During the period under review, the Council provided technical assistance to approximately 500 organizations to enable them to develop policies and programs that address all HIV and AIDS cases. Policy decisions on HIV are also usually reflected in the resources allocated for program implementation.

*Improve health-care institutions and systems for reducing maternal mortality*

65. The State party continues to implement measures aimed at reducing maternal mortality by ensuring universal access to family planning, skilled attendance at birth, and basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care. Efforts to reduce maternal mortality have continued including the institutionalisation of maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response.

66. The State party was able to reduce the maternal mortality ratio from 398 per 100,000 live births in 2014, to 278 per 100,000 live births in 2018.

*Efforts to alleviate obstacles on access to health care for pregnant women and mothers to reduce maternal mortality rate*

67. During the period under review the State party constructed 563 out of the projected 650 health-posts and 92 out of 115 mini-hospitals. Further, the State party is in the process of constructing an 800 bed-space mother and new-born specialized Hospital in Lusaka. This will reduce the distances women will have to cover to access safe motherhood services, including family planning, antenatal care, delivery services and postnatal care.

68. In order to enhance maternal health care services at primary health care level, the State party offers services for free.

69. The State party has also introduced a National Health Scheme to enhance access of health services. The introduction of health insurance has increased access to specialised care for women with complications.

70. The State party introduced direct entry training of midwives and continued in-service training of midwives. Further, Safe Motherhood Action Groups (SMAGS) support maternal health at household level in rural areas.

*Increase resources to the health and education sectors for population living in rural areas*

71. The State party increased grants to the education and health sectors under the 2022 budget. The State party has ring-fenced 20% of the Constituency Development Fund for bursary support to secondary school learners at Tertiary level for skills training.

72. The State party with the support from cooperating partners is constructing 82 high schools across the country aimed at eliminating illiteracy.

73. The State party recruited 5,000 health workers in the year 2019 and 11,276 in the year 2022. Further, 2,390 teachers were recruited in 2021, and 30,496 teachers were recruited in 2022.

74. The State party also introduced an education television channel and supplied village satellite television sets. This has tremendously helped in the delivery of education services in rural areas.

*Health care undertakings on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment*

75. The State party has made positive progress in the HIV response on annual HIV infections through sensitisation, early commencement of treatment leading to viral suppression, provision of free condoms in facilities, running behavioral change campaigns, test and treat, elimination of Mother-To-Child Transmission (eMTCT) and implementing Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) which has been a key pillar to the State party's HIV prevention strategy.

*Access to information about mental health programmes and services*

76. The State party has continued to carry out different activities to increase access to information on mental health programmes and services. Among these activities include: brochures, posters, social media platforms including radio and television, incorporation of aspects of mental health in the curriculum for training of health practitioners.

77. The State party has also enacted the Mental Health Act, No. 6 of 2019 and introduced mental health services in provinces and districts. In addition, the State party enhanced multi-sectoral response to mental health through community-based organizations.

*Access to health and education services for migrant children*

78. The State party has continued to provide free health and education services for all migrant populations in refugee camps and border posts thereby increasing access to these services. During the period under review, the State party opened 73 schools and 19 health posts which have enhanced access to health and education services.

**Theme E51: Right to education – general**

*Strengthen efforts to broaden access to education in accordance with the revised education for all national policy and increase allocation to the education sector*

79. The State party revised the Education for All National Policy by introducing the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme aimed at increasing enrolments, reducing absenteeism and enhancing children's nutritional status and cognitive development.

80. During the period under review, the State party continued to recruit teachers. In 2018 a total of 2,009 teachers were recruited. A further 2,390 teachers and 30,496 teachers were recruited in 2019, and 2022, respectively.

81. The State party has continued implementing the Public Welfare Assistance Scheme which enables vulnerable people to have access to education and nutrition. Under this Programme, the State party has since been providing bursaries and other basic needs to enable the vulnerable access education.

*Access to compulsory education and equal learning opportunities for all children*

82. In response to the Sustainable Development Goal number 4, the State party introduced free education from early childhood to Secondary level. The State party also increased the number of pre-school centres which have been annexed to existing primary schools in order to enhance access to Early Child Education.

83. The State party has enhanced access to education for Children with Special Education Needs (CSEN) and disabilities by providing user-friendly facilities for children with disabilities.

84. The State party has also introduced a basic Special Needs Education for Colleges of Education in order to equip teachers with basic knowledge of identifying and assessing learners with disabilities.

*Education reforms to increase the quality of education, make it more accessible and facilitate re-entry of adolescent mothers back to school*

85. The State party has been implementing a two-tier system that offers learners an opportunity to follow either an academic or vocational career path. In this regard, the State party is providing additional training infrastructure in selected secondary schools across the country to scale up skills training.

86. The State party has continued to encourage girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy to go back to school after giving birth. By 2022, at least 50% of adolescent mothers reported back to school.

87. The State party is also implementing Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) programme, which aims at providing appropriate infrastructure, materials, and training for adolescent girls to reduce absenteeism.

88. In order to address the low teacher-pupil ratio, the State party employed 30,496 teachers in 2022 and put in measures to increase access to secondary education for girls in extremely poor households.

*Extension of free primary education to all*

89. With effect from 2022, the State party scrapped off all forms of fees in public primary schools and free education is available for all.

**Theme F4: Persons with disabilities**

*Assurance on the laws relating to persons with disabilities being consistent with international standards and efforts to address the rights of persons with disabilities*

90. In addition to the Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 6 of 2012 which comprehensively domesticates the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the

State party enacted the Mental Health Act, No. 6 of 2019, which also domesticates the provisions of the Convention.

*Additional measures to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities*

91. The State party has increased funding to the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD) to carry out its mandate as provided in the Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 6 of 2012. Additionally, the State party has established Community Based Inclusion Development (CBID) networks to enhance dialogue and coordination.

**Theme F12: Discrimination against women**

*Implementation of the anti-gender-based violence act of 2011 and the allocation of adequate budget resources for the anti-gender-based violence fund*

92. The State party is implementing various measures in line with the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No 1 of 2011, to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence. These measures are aimed at increasing access to essential services for survivors of Gender Based Violence and to engage traditional leaders to tackle social norms that promote the subordination of women.

93. The State party enacted the Gender Equity and Equality Act No 22 of 2015 and the State party continues to promote and achieve gender equity and equality as envisaged by the Act in the following manner:

- (a) training of judges to handle GBV cases;
- (b) law enforcement officers in prosecuting the GBV cases;
- (c) the establishment of one-stop-centres across the nation; and
- (d) establishment and construction of six (6) fast track courts.

**Theme F13: Violence against women**

*Intensification of efforts to criminalize and diminish all types of violence against women*

94. Gender Equity and Equality Act and the Penal Code criminalises all types of violence against women. The State party is also in the process of reviewing the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act which will also make provisions for criminalising violence against women.

*Measures to prevent and combat gender-based violence*

95. The State party has put in place measures to prevent and combat Gender-Based Violence which include financially empowering Gender Based Violence survivors. Further, during the period under review, the State party established and constructed six (6) Fast Track Courts on Gender Based Violence in order to increase access to justice for the victims of Gender Based Violence.

**Theme F14: Participation of women in political and public life**

*Promote women's empowerment by increasing the number of women in leadership positions in all spheres of life*

96. The State party has progressively endeavored to ensure that women take up leadership positions. Since 2016, the State party has had female Vice-Presidents. The Thirteenth National Assembly of the State party also made history when the House elected its first female Speaker. Additionally, the First Deputy Speaker is also female.

97. In an effort to reduce developmental disparities, the State party, under the 8NDP, will implement interventions aimed at addressing gender inequality issues related to the participation of women in decision-making positions.



**Theme F31: Children: Definition; general principles; protection**

*Measures to accelerate the adoption and implementation of the marriage bill (2015) and to set a minimum age for marriage under customary law in order to help end child marriage*

98. The Marriage Act, Chapter 50 of the Laws of Zambia, sets the legal minimum age of marriage at 21 years. Sections 17 and 34 of the Act, exempts all child marriage below the age of 21 years.

99. In addition, the State Party under the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022 prohibits subjecting a child to child marriage or to cultural rites and religious or traditional practices, that are likely to negatively affect the child's life, health, social welfare, dignity, and physical or psychological development. The Act makes further provision for the care and protection of a child that is likely to be subjected to child marriage or to customs and practices prejudicial to the child's life, education and health.

100. In addition, the Education Act No. 3 of 2011 criminalizes the marrying or the marrying off of a learner who is a child.

*Strengthen the policies to protect children's rights*

101. The State party has continued to strengthen the implementation of National Child Policies to protect children's rights through implementation of its 2015 National Child Policy, Health Policy and various Education Policies. In addition, the protection of children's rights has been enhanced through the enactment of legislation such as the Employment Code Act 2019, the Children's Code Act 2022, and amendment to the Penal Code.

*Children participation in formal consultative processes*

102. The State party has introduced student councils in learning institutions across the country which has created a conducive environment for the participation of children in formal consultations.

103. Schools have also formed peer counselling where children are trained as mediators to help other children resolve problems, creating a conducive environment in which children can act to protect themselves and others.

**Theme F33: Children: Protection against exploitation**

*Review the employment of young persons and children's act with a view to include domestic labour and family-based enterprises*

104. The State party enacted the Employment Code Act No, 3 of 2019 which repealed the Employment of Young Persons and Children's Act. In addition, the Children's Code Act, 2022, consolidates laws relating to children and further domesticates human rights provisions relating to children's rights. The two Acts enhance provisions on domestic labour and family-based enterprises in line with the International Labour Organisation Minimum Age Convention.

*Modification of national and customary laws in order to prevent child, early and forced marriage*

105. The State Party enacted the Children's Code Act, 2022, which explicitly defines child marriage as a marriage with a child or any arrangement made by a person for that marriage, a child being a person being under the age of 18 as defined by the constitution of Zambia.

106. The State party has commenced the review and development of a successor National Strategy for Ending Child Marriage and its Plan of Action following the expiry of the 2016-2021 Strategy to end Child marriage by 2030. The Strategy aimed at reducing the incidences of child marriage, by strengthening a multi-sectoral response, harmonising policies and legislation in order to have consistent application of child related interventions and influencing cultural change to help trigger positive attitude and behavioral change towards child marriage.

*Efforts to bring an end to all forms of child labour*

107. With regard to Child labour, the State party enacted the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022, which prohibits subjecting children to economic exploitation or any work that is hazardous or likely to interfere with the child's education, physical or mental health, spiritual, moral, emotional or social development.

108. Further, the State party has put in place measures to bring to an end all forms of child labor which include setting the minimum age of a child for the purposes of admission to employment, the number of hours and conditions of employment of a child; as provided for in the State party's Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019.

**Theme F34: Children: Juvenile justice**

*Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility*

109. The State party has revised the legal age of majority of criminal responsibility to ensure full protection of the child who may be in conflict with the law. Accordingly, in 2022, the Penal Code was reviewed to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility from eight (8) to twelve (12) years.

**Theme G1: Members of minorities**

*Protection of ethnic and religious minorities*

110. The State party's Constitution prohibits treating a person differently, directly or indirectly, on the basis of that person's birth, race, sex, origin, colour, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, tribe, pregnancy, health, or marital, ethnic, social or economic status. This is enshrined under the Bill of Rights.

**Theme G5: Refugees and asylum seekers**

*Provide refugee children with access to social services, such as health and education*

111. The State party provides access to health, education, water and sanitation services, among other social services, to all refugee children.

**B. Partial implementation of recommendations**

**Introduction**

112. This section covers supported recommendations whose implementation was still ongoing during the period under review.

**Theme A41: Constitutional and legislative framework**

*Accelerate the process of domestication of international human rights instruments*

113. The State party has made significant progress in the domestication of International Human Rights instruments to which the State is a party through legal reforms. During the period under review, the State party domesticated the following international human rights instruments:

(a) Convention on the Rights of the Child (a) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Children's Code Act); and

(b) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Probation of Offenders (Amendment) Act, 2022, the Legal Aid Act, 2021 Penal Code (Amendment) Act, the Electoral Process (Amendment) Act, 2021 and the Public Gathering Bill 2022).

*Strengthen legislation on the prohibition of torture and improve conditions of detention in prisons*

114. The Zambia Correctional Service Act No. 37 of 2021 domesticates the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners (Mandela Rules). In implementing this Act, the State party has constructed modern correctional facilities and rehabilitated a number of correctional facilities to address overcrowding and facilitate the supply of social amenities such as clean water and sanitation. Further, the constitutional transformation from prison to correctional service has resulted into human treatment of inmates as it has moved from punitive to restorative justice.

*Widen the scope of the 1996 Bill of Rights*

115. The State party intends to widen the scope of the Bill of Rights during the implementation of the Eighth National Development Plan during the period 2022 to 2026 to include economic, social and cultural rights. In addition, the State party seeks to abolish the death penalty.

*Should not further liberalize abortion and instead implement laws aimed at protecting the right to life of the unborn*

116. The State party has not liberalized abortion and has continued to implement the Termination of Pregnancy Act, Chapter 304 of 1972 in order to protect the right to life of the unborn.

**Theme A42: Institutions and policies – general**

*Status of implementation of recommendations of the commission of inquiry on voting patterns and electoral violence*

117. The State party implemented various recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on Voting Patterns and Electoral Violence through legal, administrative, institutional reforms such as review of the Public Order Act and enhancement of Law Enforcement Agencies, among others.

**Theme A45: National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)**

*Grant sufficient resources to the National Human Rights Commission*

118. The State party has progressively increased funding to the Human Rights Commission amidst a tight fiscal space. In 2018 the Commission's budget stood at ZMW13,809,290 (US\$ 863,080) while in 2022, the budget increased to ZMW 21,199,507 (US\$ 1,324,949) representing an increase of 35 percent.

**Theme A46: National plans of action on human rights (or specific areas)**

*Adopt a National Human Rights Action Plan*

119. The State party developed a draft National Human Rights Action Plan which guided implementation of the UPR recommendations. The Plan was complemented by the Human Rights Programmes which were being implemented under the Seventh National Development Plan (2017-2021).

120. The State party also commenced the process of formulating the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights to be implemented under the implementation Plan of the Eighth National Development Plan (2022-2026).

### **Theme A47: Good governance**

#### *Engaging civil society activists on the draft Access to Information Bill*

121. The State party prioritised the engagement of civil society activists and non-governmental organizations to seek common ground in its media development agenda, particularly in the drafting of the Access to Information Bill.

#### *Redouble its efforts for effective governance of natural resources in line with the Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011*

122. The State party initiated consultative process with stakeholders to redouble its efforts for effective governance of natural resources which resulted in the formulation of the Environmental Management (Amendment) Bill. This Bill is expected to provide guidelines on the governance of natural resources. Further, the State party created a Ministry to specifically deal with matters of governance of natural resources.

### **Theme A63: Budget and resources (for human rights implementation)**

#### *Increase budgetary allocations to the education and health sectors as set out in the Abuja and Dakar declarations*

123. The State party is making strides to meet the Abuja and Dakar Declarations levels of funding in the Health and Education Sectors but has not yet met the targets of 15% and 20% respectively. Under the 2023 budget, the State party's Health and Education sectors budget stood at 10.4 % and 19% of the National Budget respectively. The significant increase in both sectors is as a result of the recent recruitments which have significantly increased the wage bill.

124. In 2019, the State party introduced a National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) which is aimed at accelerating the achievement of Universal Health Coverage through the provision of Financial Risk Protection in health access. This has enhanced the financial capacity of the health sector.

### **Theme B6: Business and human rights**

#### *National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights*

125. During the period under review, the State party commenced the process of formulating the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and has been included in the implementation Plan of the Eighth National Development Plan (2022-2026).

### **Theme D26: Conditions of detention**

#### *Renovation of correctional facilities to adhere to approved international standards*

126. The State party undertook renovation works by way of improving ventilation and sanitation at ten (10) most critical correctional facilities.

#### *Meet international standards in ensuring adequate living conditions for inmates*

127. The State party made significant improvement in meeting international standards of living conditions for inmates through improvement of correctional environment in terms of sanitation, provision of good beddings and uniforms.

128. In 2021, the State party commissioned one (1) modern Remand Prison and Correctional Centre, with a holding capacity of 1,500 inmates. The facility has modern dormitories, workshops, a clinic and a Chapel among other amenities.

#### *Separation of children from adults detained in police stations and prisons*

129. The State party has embarked on building and renovating infrastructure to provide for effective separation of children in conflict with the law and awaiting trial from adults. For instance, the Choma Central Police has dormitories for children.

*Redouble efforts to improve the living conditions and reduce the overcrowding of prisons and steps to reduce long terms of preventive detention*

130. The State party has continued to improve prison conditions in terms of good sanitation, adequate inmates' beddings and uniforms, and the provision of nutritional food for inmates. The State party is in the process of reviewing the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, especially provisions relating to custodial sentences for petty crimes; removing mandatory minimum sentences thereby reducing overcrowding.

131. As a way of reducing long terms of preventive detention, the State party is implementing the Zambia Correctional Service Act No. 37 of 2021 by decentralizing the National Parole Board which has increased the number of sittings to consider applications for parole. This has assisted in reducing over-crowding in correctional facilities as a result of the increase in the number of inmates being released on parole.

132. The State party has introduced Legal Aid Desks at Courts, Police Stations and Correctional facilities to guarantee easy access to legal services for inmates and suspects to reduce long terms of preventive detention.

133. The State party has also decentralised the High Court to all provinces. This will facilitate in the quick disposal of cases which will ultimately reduce long terms of preventive detentions.

**Theme D43: Freedom of opinion and expression**

*Guarantee that journalists and other media workers can carry out their work independently and without fear of persecution*

134. The State party is in the process of developing the Access to Information Bill which will, among others, enhance the independence and freedom of journalists in the nation. Under the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, various provisions that prejudice the independence of the media are being reviewed and legislation on Human Rights Defenders is being developed.

*Reviewing its defamation laws to make sure they are in full compliance with international human rights law*

135. The State party is in the process of reviewing the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code to amend provisions relating to defamation of the President and defamation of foreign Princes.

*Efforts for independence of broadcasting authority*

136. The State party has continued to uphold the independence of the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act No. 17 of 2002. To strengthen the independence and autonomy of the Authority, in the year 2022, the State party commenced the process of reviewing the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act.

**Theme H1: Human rights defenders**

*Protection of human rights defenders, journalists and activists*

137. The State party has continued to protect Human Rights Defenders, Journalists and activists without discrimination. In addition, the State party is working with the Human Rights Defenders Network and Civil Society Organisations to develop legislation for human rights defenders. At the time of preparing this report, the development of domestic legislation was underway.

## C. Pending recommendations

### Introduction

138. This section analyses recommendations whose implementation was still pending and the associated challenges as well as steps taken to overcome them.

### Theme A12: Acceptance of international norms

139. The following recommendations remained outstanding during the period under review:

- (a) Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
- (b) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- (c) Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education;
- (d) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- (e) Ratify the first and second Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- (f) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- (g) Ratify the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989;
- (h) Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and
- (i) Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

140. 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.

### Theme A24: Cooperation with special procedures

#### *Invitation to United Nations Special Rapporteurs*

141. During the period under review, the State party did not receive any request for invitation by UN Special Rapporteurs.

## D. Noted recommendations

### Introduction

142. This section of the report reflects on steps towards the implementation of noted recommendations.

### Noted recommendations

143. The main focus of recommendations that the State party noted was on same sex relationships. These are as follows:

- (a) Decriminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults;
- (b) Repeal laws that criminalize same-sex conduct between adults and review all legislation, policies and programs to foster equality and prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;

(c) Decriminalize same sex relationships between consenting adults and strengthen efforts to address inequality and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;

(d) Respect the rights and fundamental freedoms of the LGBTI people through the repeal of all norms that criminalize and stigmatize the LGBTI person; and

(e) Review and repeal the legislation that criminalizes consensual sexual behavior between people of the same sex; and prohibit degrading practices imposed on people of the LGBTI community, such as forced anal examinations.

144. The State party considers the recommendations as those that violate its values, morals and beliefs as enshrined in the Constitution.

### III. Status of implementation of voluntary pledges

#### Introduction

145. This section addresses the status of implementation of voluntary pledges by the State party.

#### **Theme A21: National mechanisms for implementation reporting and follow-up**

##### *Establishment of national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up*

146. The State party has established an inter-ministerial structure known as National Mechanism for Implementation Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF) in 2022, in line with International best practice.

#### **Theme d7: Right to participation in public affairs and right to vote**

##### *Make necessary corrections to the constitution to guarantee respect for the rights of the opposition, in particular freedom of assembly and demonstration, the freedom of the press and the media, as well as to the legal framework on the maintenance of public order*

147. The State party upholds its Constitutional provision on the Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and Association. Further, the State party is in the process of reforming its Public Order Act so as to guarantee freedom of assembly and demonstration. The objective is to regulate the conduct of public gatherings for the preservation of public order and safety.

148. The State party is also in the process of developing the Access to Information Bill which will, among others, enhance the independence and freedom of journalists in the nation.

149. The State party intends to make necessary amendments to the Constitution during the implementation of the Eighth National Development Plan (2022-2026). In this regard, the State party commenced developing a road map to review the Constitution.

150. In furtherance of the right to participation in public affairs and right to vote, the State party amended the Electoral Process Act to facilitate voting of persons in lawful custody and all eligible inmates voted for the first time in the 2021 General Election.

##### *Reconciliation with the main opposition party to diffuse lingering tensions*

151. The State party through the Zambia Centre for Inter-Party Dialogue engaged the Church Mother-Bodies to facilitate Inter-Party Dialogue amongst all political parties which resulted in the formulation of a road map on Inter-Party Dialogue.

152. Further, in an effort to diffuse lingering tension with the main opposition party, at the time, and foster reconciliation, the State party invited the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Rt. Hon. Ms. Patricia Scotland, QC and Prof. Ibrahim Gambari (Commonwealth special envoy to Zambia) to facilitate the Inter-Party Dialogue process in order to promote peace and democracy in the country.

**Theme D23: Death penalty**

*Abolition of the death penalty*

153. The State party is in the process of amending the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code to remove provisions relating to the death penalty.

*Widen the scope of the 1996 Bill of Rights*

154. The State party has continued to engage various stakeholders and cooperating partners to solicit support to hold a referendum to amend the Part III of the Constitution in a bid to enhance the Bill of Rights.

**Theme: D44: Right to peaceful assembly**

*Reform the Public Order Act*

155. The State party is in the process of reviewing its Public Order Act which governs the rights to peaceful assembly and association. To this effect, a draft Bill to repeal and replace the Public Order Act has been developed.

## **IV. New and emerging issues, including advances and challenges**

**Introduction**

156. This section highlights some developments that emerged since the previous review and are viewed to have potential threats on the enjoyment of human rights.

**Coronavirus outbreak**

157. The State party's first case of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was recorded on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, in Lusaka after which the pandemic spread to other provinces. The State party instituted quick and decisive measures to ensure that the potential rapid spread of the outbreak was averted and mitigated. The measures included the following:

(a) Issuance of the Public Health (Notifiable Infectious Disease) (Declaration) Notice, 2020 (Statutory Instrument No. 21 of 2020), Public Health (Infected Areas) (Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations Statutory Instrument No. 22 of 2020 which aimed at authorizing Health Personnel to deal with matters related to COVID-19;

(b) Closure of schools, colleges and universities;

(c) Restrictions on non-essential foreign travel;

(d) Mandatory quarantine of all foreign travelers for a 14-day period;

(e) Closure of bars, cinemas, gyms, churches and casinos;

(f) Delivery and take-away regime for restaurants;

(g) Restrictions of public gatherings to only 50 people;

(h) Designation of isolation facilities for COVID-19 patients;

(i) Procurement and distribution of disinfectants and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);

(j) Recruitment of 400 doctors and 3,000 paramedics to enhance the fight against COVID-19;

(k) Identification and instruction of non-essential staff to report on duty on a rotational basis as well as staff that work from home during the pandemic;

(l) Sensitisation of members of the general public through media platforms and distribution of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials;



- (m) Encouraging the use of electronic transactions and platforms to access some public services;
- (n) Introduction of tax relief measures and those aimed at easing liquidity to keep industries afloat and thereby maintain jobs;
- (o) Suspension of customs duty and VAT on medical supplies used in the fight against Covid-19;
- (p) The general public was encouraged to stay at home and only leave their residence when it was extremely necessary;
- (q) Development of Standard Operative Procedures for the Zambia Police Service to manage the Public;
- (r) Setting up of a Call Centre for the public to report health concerns; and
- (s) Established an Emergency Fund to provide resources for COVID-19 preparedness, surveillance and response.

158. Despite all the efforts to curb the spread of the disease, the State party recorded a cumulative number of 330,407 infections; 1,147 deaths related to Covid-19; and 2,868 deaths from actual Covid-19 cases, bringing the total to 4,015 by July, 2022.

159. When the Covid-19 vaccine was approved, the State party joined the rest of the world to vaccinate its citizens to prevent further spread of the disease. By July, 2022, a total of 5,119,087 citizens had been fully vaccinated while a total of 513,538 had received their booster vaccine.

#### **Mysterious gas attacks**

160. In 2020, the State party experienced waves of mysterious gas attacks. The bizarre attacks started on the Copperbelt region before spreading to other parts of country. A number of lives were lost at the hands of angry members of the public meting out instant mob justice against persons suspected of carrying out ritual killings and gassing activities. The State party acted swiftly by deploying military personnel to suppress further waves of attacks on civilians by gangs.

## **V. Challenges which require support from the international community**

### **Introduction**

161. This section of the report highlights expectations of the State party in terms of capacity-building and requests, if any, for technical assistance and support received.

#### **Theme A27: Follow-up to Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

##### *Action Plan to guide the implementation of recommendations*

162. The State party prepared a draft National Action Plan to guide the monitoring and the implementation of the UPR recommendations. The State party would require financial and technical support on the *modus operandi* of the Action Plan.

#### **Theme E41: Right to health – general**

##### *Combating of different ailments*

163. Despite efforts to increase health facilities, the State party still faces challenges to combat different ailments due to few specialised health workers. Therefore, there is need for financial and technical support for the training of medical personnel in different specialised fields.

**Theme E51: Right to education – general**

*Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children*

164. The State party is in the process of expanding and improving the provision of free early childhood education. However, there is need for financial and technical support to provide comprehensive early childhood care and education. The State party intends to train and recruit specialised teachers in this field.

**VI. Self-assessment on the status of implementation of recommendations**

**Introduction**

165. Under this section, the State party conducted a self-assessment of the status of implementation of each recommendation.

**Self-assessment of the status of recommendations**

166. During the period under review, the State party had a total of 203 of which 183 recommendations were support. Of these, 105 were fully implemented representing 57%; at least 50 were partially implemented representing 27% while 28 were pending, representing 15%.

167. This performance on the fully implemented recommendations was attributed to a number of factors, among them, the following:

- (a) Collaboration with Civil Society Organisations;
- (b) Support from the United Nations Agencies and cooperating partners; and
- (c) Conducive governance environment.

168. The performance on the partially implemented recommendations was attributed to the following:

- (a) Processes involved on implementation;
- (b) Inadequate financial and technical capacity; and
- (c) Emerging issues such as Covid-19.

169. With regard to the pending recommendations, the State party is consulting key stakeholders.

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