Charter of Demands
Zambia People’s Assembly 2020

26 September 2020

We, a group of civil society organisations organized a national-level People’s Assembly on 26th September 2020 in Lusaka Zambia. In attendance via a web conference there were more than 100 representatives of various marginalized peoples who participated and raised their voices and concerns. The groups of people included Youth, Children, Women, old people, people living with disabilities, small scale farmers and representatives of community based organisations.

This is part of the global process of civil society globally coordinated by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) where grassroots and marginalized voices and communities come together to analyse their situation during the COVID-19 pandemic and their demands.

Some of the key points from our discussion by the various stakeholders are as follows;

- Government announced a 10 billion kwacha stimulus package to help businesses and vulnerable groups after the shocks and challenges that various groups are facing such as loss of business and job losses. What criteria or how are vulnerable groups such as people living with disabilities especially Women and girls benefiting from this initiative.
- Collaboration between civil society and government on matters of national development was also highlighted as one of the challenges civil society is facing in fully participating in matters of national development. In most cases it appears civil society is merely called in to endorse government position.
- Also lack of unity and collaboration among civil society in Zambia.

Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit poor and marginalized people the worst and it has further widened inequalities and has had vast impacts on the wider social, economic and environmental fabric of the world.

We are sharing the key issues raised in the discussions and our demands for Zambia and government to address and implement.

**Issues:**

- **Issues of inclusion of the voice of marginalized groups**
- **Civil Society participation in national development issues on time as opposed to just inviting them to endorse government positions but they must listen to the voice of Civil Society and the people**
- **Greater need for political tolerance among political players as we head towards the general elections next year**
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Demands:

Our demands for the Zambian government are as follows:

- Include the voice and participation of marginalized groups in national development.
- Government together with civil society must collaborate to strengthen the national SDGs forum to accelerate the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs by 2030.
- Make available resources to implement national development programs such as the SDGs
- End political violence before the 2021 which has characterise most bye elections lately in Zambia.
- Government must support inclusive community action on covid19
- The government of Zambia must establish a more inclusive process for CSO participation and feedback on the SDGs.
- In order to reduce vulnerability and poverty, government must increase social sector spending.
- Government must redefine its criteria of selecting CSOs participating on the SDGs in Zambia.
- Government must put in place processes and mechanism to ensure the “leave no one behind” principle is fully implemented.

We the undersigned,

1. CSO SDGs Campaign/GCAP Zambia
   (Convener and the Secretariat of the
   CSO Platform on SDGs)
2. Save the Children- Zambia
3. MICAH Global- Zambia
4. Advocacy for Child Justice Zambia
5. Women’s Lobby
6. Media Network on Child Rights and Development
7. Women in Environment
8. Sight Savers- Zambia
9. Zambia institute for labour Research and Development
10. Centre for Young African Leaders
11. Water aid Zambia
12. Wash forum
13. Network of Rural Women Assembly
14. PANOS Institute
15. Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
16. Caritas Zambia
17. Lifeline/ChildLine Zambia
18. Zambia Climate Change Network
19. Environment Africa
20. Child Sentinel Trust Zambia
21. Retirees’ Welfare Bureau of Zambia (RWBZ)
22. Support To Older People-Zambia (STOP-Zambia)
23. Community Support for the Needy (COSUN)
24. Development for Aged People in Zambia (DAPZ)
25. Zambia Is One (ZIO)
26. Youth In Action for Disability Inclusion in Zambia
27. Zambia agency of People Living with Disabilities (ZAPD)
28. Leonard Cheshire Homes Zambia
29. Zambia Social Forum
30. United Nations youth Association (UNA)
31. United Nations-Zambia