



**Global
Call to Action
Against Poverty**

People Rising to End Inequalities



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*

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,

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