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Human Rights Commission

Head Office

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PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON ZAMBIA'S ELECTION TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Human Rights Commission congratulates the Republic of Zambia on its election to the UN Human Rights Council for the 2027-2029 term.

Election to the UN Human Rights Council is a significant recognition and an opportunity for Zambia to contribute to global efforts to promote and protect human rights, and to strengthen cooperation among States. This membership, however, carries with it a heightened responsibility to uphold the highest standards of human rights protection and to translate international commitments into tangible action at the domestic level.

The Commission emphasises that this membership must deliver concrete improvements in the enjoyment of human rights for all people in Zambia. In this regard, the Commission calls for renewed focus on strengthening access to justice and respect for the rule of law; preventing arbitrary arrests, detentions without trial and prolonged pre-trial detentions; enhancing protection of children, women and persons in vulnerable situations; safeguarding fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly; and promoting equality and non-discrimination, in line with the Constitution of Zambia and Zambia's international human rights obligations.

The Commission further calls on the Government to use its seat on the UN Human Rights Council to address outstanding human rights concerns, to strengthen accountability mechanisms, and to ensure effective and accessible remedies for human rights violations. Zambia's credibility and contribution at the international level must be matched by demonstrable progress in protecting the dignity, rights and freedoms of all persons within the country.

The Commission reaffirms its commitment to working with the Government and all stakeholders to ensure that Zambia's tenure on the UN Human Rights Council leaves a lasting legacy for human rights protection both at home and abroad.

About the Human Rights Commission

The Human Rights Commission is an independent National Human Rights Institution established under Article 230 of the Constitution of Zambia and operationalised through the Human Rights Commission Act, No. 4 of 2024 and the Access to Information Act, No. 24 of 2023. Its mandate includes promoting and protecting human rights, investigating human rights violations and abuses, monitoring the observance of human rights, and conducting human rights education. For more information, visit www.hrc.org.zm.

(Original Signed)

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CHAIRPERSON

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION