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Republic of Zambia

**INTERVENTION STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR EDGAR CHAGWA
LUNGU, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA AS ZAMBIA LEAVES
THE SADC ORGAN TROIKA
14TH AUGUST, 2020**

STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA

- **YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AND CHAIR OF THE ORGAN,**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCES,**

As we close this Organ Troika Summit Video Conference Meeting and as Zambia's tenure on the Organ Troika draws to a close, I wish to take this opportunity to express deep appreciation to my fellow Organ Members for their unwavering support over the last three years.

During our tenure, among other key activities, several of our Members States were able to successfully prove to the outside our collective strive as a region to consolidate our democratic governance by conducting peaceful elections in five (5) SADC Member States namely, Madagascar, Mauritius, DRC, South Africa and Malawi. Significant amongst them were those in our sister Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many commentators were sceptical about the elections taking place in the DRC but with the collective resolve and determination of the people of our sister country, the process of elections was successfully and peacefully held as a stepping stone towards the restoration of normalcy in the DRC. Zambia was honoured to have led the SADC region in support of our brothers and sisters in that process.

Your Excellency, in further consolidating democracy in our region, as Chair of the SADC Oversight Committee, Zambia was honoured to have contributed towards ensuring the advancement of the Lesotho Peace Process. Working closely with our Brother, President Cyril Ramaphosa's Facilitation Team, Lesotho made remarkable progress in implementing the National Dialogue and Comprehensive National Reforms Process by achieving key milestones on the Reforms Roadmap.

At this juncture, I wish to reiterate my sincere gratitude to the Republic of Zimbabwe to whom we handed over the baton in August 2019, for their sterling leadership and commitment as Organ Chair, even in the face of recent numerous challenges that our region continues to endure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Allow me to also take this opportunity to assure His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, who now takes over the Chairmanship of the Organ, of my country's continued support as a SADC Member during your tenure.

Chairperson, I would be remiss in my remarks if I did not thank the SADC Secretariat for their diligent work in ensuring that the wheels of SADC continue to turn, now more than ever, with the restrictions we have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. I wish to commend the Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax and her team, particularly the ICT team, for an excellent job in ensuring that our Statutory Meetings continue to take place in this virtual setup, ***the new normal***.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve on the Organ Troika and as I bid farewell to this distinguished House, I wish to reiterate my commitment to continue working with Your Excellencies in promoting peace and security in the SADC region.

I THANK YOU