



# EAZ National Economic Summit

## Concept Note

### Theme:

Navigating Zambia's Sustainable Economic Transformation:  
Integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable  
Financing Mechanisms Post Debt Restructuring

25-26 July, 2025  
Ciela Resort, Lusaka.



## 1. BACKGROUND

The Zambian economy has posted positive growth post the Covid 19 pandemic with a real growth of 2.8% in 2020, 4.6 in 2021, 3% in 2022. The country however still faces headwinds of climate change and public debt sustainability. Positive developments have been recorded with regards debt restructuring where over \$9bn of the total external debt has so far been restructured in principle under the G20 common framework for debt treatment. With Zambia being on an International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Credit Facility (ECF) support programme of \$1.3bn, the focus has been to enable macroeconomic stability and building economic resilience as the economy recovers from the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic and navigates through the process of achieving debt sustainability. However, the World has grappled with climate change effects on growth and poverty and sustainable growth solutions should be embraced from broader perspectives. This should be should be the cornerstone of developing countries. Zambia is not an exception of countries that have to deal with the negative effects of climate change and is currently at a critical juncture; facing significant drought challenges and navigating through possible solutions for its unsustainable public debt.

Climate change effects such as the drought has threatened the nation's sustainable development goals and has seen its growth projection for 2024 downgraded by the IMF from 4.4% to 2.3%. The effects of climate change, characterized by prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and ensuing floods, have severely affected key sectors such as agriculture, mining, Tourism and hydroelectric power generation which ultimately negatively affects manufacturing. These disruptions not only hinder economic growth but also endanger food security, highlighting the urgent need for adaptivity and formulation of alternative sustainable strategies to feed into Government policy.

The strategies and recommendations should see Zambia attain economic resilience against climate induced shocks as well as stay in tandem with the vision 2030 of becoming a middle income and prosperous country.

It is in this view that the Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) recognizes the impact of these present challenges in Zambia and is therefore organising a high-level summit under the **theme:**



**Navigating Zambia's Sustainable Economic Transformation: Integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Financing Mechanisms Post Debt Restructuring.**



## 2. AIM AND RATIONALE

This summit aims to convene policymakers, captains of industry, private sector leaders, civil society stakeholders, and other relevant actors for a comprehensive discourse that will consolidate insights, catalyse collaborations, and forge actionable strategies that reconcile the complex nexus of climate change adaptation imperatives and post-public debt restructuring priorities.

Additionally, in response to the Zambian Republican President, His Excellency, Mr Hakainde Hichilema Presidential Declaration of a National Disaster, the summit will seek to amplify the call for collaboration and financial support from both local and international stakeholders to enable Zambia successfully navigate through the drought induced crisis and integrate disaster risk reduction into national development plans and policies for enhanced preparedness and resilience. Therefore, the summit presents a pivotal opportunity to articulate a coherent vision, catalyse transformative action, and foster resilience within Zambia's economic fabric. By harnessing collective expertise and strategic foresight, the summit will develop a blueprint for sustainable economic rejuvenation and resilient development pathways.

## 3. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES.

- i Assessment of existing sustainable climate for debt swap frameworks and other financing frameworks that will ease the debt burden and enable debt sustainability for Zambia.
- ii Explore mechanisms to enhance domestic resource mobilization for budget support and social development post the IMF support and debt restructuring. Ensure that the benefits of economic transformation are equitably distributed
- iii Ensure that the benefits of economic transformation are equitably distributed and address the needs of vulnerable communities by promoting inclusive green growth, environmental protection, social and economic governance as well as integral components of Zambia's sustainable development trajectory.
- iv 1.Position the EAZ into a center of exploration and promoting of domestic financing mechanisms, supporting investments for growth and job creation, promoting public-private partnerships, creating avenues for international cooperation on economic development and foster scientific research collaborations in key priority economic and development areas of our 8th National Development Plan.



## 4. THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS OF THE SUMMIT

The summit will address the following thematic focus areas:



### **i. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE BUILDING:**

- Assessing the impacts of climate change on key economic sectors (agriculture, mining, energy, tourism and financial sector)
- Developing climate-resilient infrastructure and water management systems
- Promoting sustainable land-use practices and ecosystem conservation
- Strengthening early warning systems and disaster preparedness mechanisms to strengthen policy making and investment decisions
- Disaster preparedness, a critical component to hedge against economic shocks, learning from past experiences.



### **ii. EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE BUDGET FINANCING OPTIONS FOR ZAMBIA POST THE IMF PROGRAMME AND DEBT RESTRUCTURING**

- Evaluating the progress and challenges of Zambia's debt restructuring efforts
- Exploring mechanisms for enhancing fiscal transparency and accountability in Public Finance Management
- Exploring options for sustainable growth and development of Zambia post the IMF Extended Credit Facility program in 2025
- Promoting responsible borrowing and debt sustainability
- Identifying green financing gaps and national debt refinancing between government, multilaterals, bilateral, financial service providers and green global funds.



### **iii. ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCED SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES**

- The trickle-down effect of our current economic policies on ordinary citizens: addressing cost of living challenges and access to social support services
- Human capital and skills development as a catalyst for poverty reduction
- Addressing issues of environment, social protection and governance in the corporate world.



#### 4. THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS OF THE SUMMIT (CONT'L)

The summit will also address the following thematic focus areas:



##### **iv. ASSESING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEBT ON MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS AND EXPLORING SOLUTIONS.**

- Impact on the Mining, Tourism Sector, Agriculture Sector and Trade (Manufacturing and Distribution)
- Expanding Logistical Infrastructure for Regional and global Economic integration. Challenges and Opportunities.
- Value Addition Sector (Manufacturing and Processing) Challenges and opportunities.
- Strengthening resilience of industries in key sectors amidst global economic shocks and downturns.



##### **v. ZAMBIA AS A COMPETITIVE TRADE CENTRE AND LOGISTICAL HUB FOR TRADE: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF BEING LANDLINKED.**

- Positioning Zambia as a Logistical hub for the African region by integrating manufacturers and producers with the global markets via multi routes and means.
- Expound the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) agenda to facilitate growth of the manufacturing hub in Africa and intra-trade as well as seamless access to markets within and outside the African continent
- Assessing the economic value of construction and promoting the usage of the Nacara and Lobito corridors
- Boosting the Local Economy by enabling competitive markets and inhibiting barriers to trade.



##### **vi. REPOSITIONING THE EAZ INTO A CENTRE OF EXPLORATION AND PROMOTION OF DOMESTIC FINANCING MECHANISMS, TRADE, ECONOMIC POLICY AND INVESTMENT ADVISORY.**

- Strengthening EAZ as a key stakeholder in lobbying for investments for growth and job creation, promoting public-private partnerships, creating avenues for international cooperation on economic development.
- Positioning EAZ as a focal point of scientific economic research and collaborations in key priority economic and development areas.
- Position EAZ as key advisory centre to the government, investors and other stakeholders.





## 5. FORMAT OF THE SUMMIT

The Summit coined "*Navigating Zambia's Sustainable Economic Transformation: Integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Financing Mechanisms Post Restructuring* " **will be officiated by the Republican President; His Excellence; Hakainde Hichilema** who will give the keynote address. The summit will have discussions and presentations by distinguished national and global figures/institutions, subject matter experts, Government line Ministries, global green fund managers, bankers, regulators and renowned specialists in relevant fields. The summit will commence with an opening plenary session, setting the stage for discussions on critical topics related to climate change adaptation, debt restructuring, and sustainable economic development. Interactive roundtable discussions and breakout sessions will facilitate in-depth exploration of key thematic areas; allowing participants to exchange insights, share best practices, and propose innovative solutions.



Picture credit: [https://www.sh.gov.zm/?page\\_id=16090](https://www.sh.gov.zm/?page_id=16090)

The summit participants will be engaged to question and provide practical tools and methodologies for implementing climate-resilient strategies and sustainable debt management practices. Additionally, exhibits and public/side events will engage broader audiences, fostering public awareness and participation in addressing Zambia's economic challenges through climate action and post debt restructuring economic resilience building options. The summit's format is designed to stimulate intellectual discourse, encourage critical thinking, and provide scientific evidence to guide policy decisions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the Zambian context and in tandem with the 8th National Development Plan. By promoting inclusive research and collaboration, the summit aims to contribute to building a more equitable and sustainable economy, fostering resilient communities and cities in Zambia.

## 6. EXPECTED OUTCOME

The Economics Association of Zambia anticipates that this summit will be a landmark moment in Zambia's journey towards economic resilience and sustainability amidst public debt and climate change induced challenges. By uniting diverse perspectives, expertise, and resources, the summit aspires to craft innovative recommendations which will be a blueprint to policy makers, private sector and other stakeholders and ultimately propel Zambia towards a future characterized by inclusive growth and environmental stewardship both in the medium and long term.



## 7. VENUE AND DATES

The first EAZ Summit will take place from **25th July,2024 to 26th July,2024** at **Ciela Resort**, located in **Chongwe, Zambia**. The chosen venue, Ciela Resort, provides a conducive environment for meaningful dialogue, knowledge exchange, and networking among participants from various sectors and disciplines. The location of Chongwe, Zambia, nestled within natural surroundings, symbolizes the importance of integrating climate considerations into economic development strategies.

Ceila Resort offers a strategic setting for fostering collaboration and forging partnerships towards achieving Zambia's sustainable development goals amidst the challenges posed by climate change and debt restructuring.





# CONTACT

## EAZ Secretariat

- Flat No.1 Stand 6000 Chitemene Rd - Northmead,
- P.O Box 38006, Lusaka - Zambia
- Tel: +260211842088 | Mobile: +260770537400
- Email: [secretariat@eaz.org.zm](mailto:secretariat@eaz.org.zm)

