



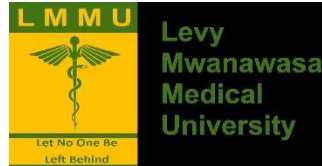
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**FIAN**  
INTERNATIONAL  
ZAMBIA



**FAMILY**  
DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVES



**SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDUM**  
**TO THE COMMITTEE ON LANDS, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL**  
**RESOURCES**

*on*

**THE RATIFICATION OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SCIENCE**  
**SERVICE CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTIVE LAND**  
**MANAGEMENT (SASSCAL) TREATY**

*from*

**THE ZAMBIA CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORK**

**DATE: 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Hon. Chairperson and Committee Members, we are thankful for having been invited to make this submission despite the challenges we had to put together this Memorandum due to time constraints. As you may be aware, we were supposed to appear before this Committee on Wednesday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024. However, we decided to make this submission because it's of national interest.

Hon. Chairperson, the Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) is a membership-based organization that exists as a national civil society platform, whose strategic thrust is climate justice and sustainable development in Zambia. Our Mission is to coordinate stakeholder engagement on climate change related issues such as advocating, lobbying and campaigning and domesticating practical sustainable measures for addressing climate change impacts in Zambia, Africa and globally. We envision a 'A Zambia resilient to adverse impacts of climate change. It was established on the 28th of February 2011 and has its Secretariat at Mulungushi International Conference Centre, 1st floor, New Wing, Lusaka.

Upon being invited to submit our comments with regard to the Ratification of the Southern African Science Service Center for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) Treaty with a focus on;

1. Ramifications of the Treaty
2. Our Position on Whether Zambia Should Ratify the Treaty

ZCCN members and partners have further made comments on the implications of either ratifying or not ratifying the treaty.

Hon. Chairperson, the ZCCN worked with its members and partners who contributed to the development of this memorandum and these are, ActionAid Zambia (**AAZ**), Center for Environmental Justice (**CEJ**), Family Development Initiatives (**FDI**), **FIAN** International Zambia and Levy Mwanawasa Medical University (**LMMU**), School of Public Health.

## **2. BACKGROUND AND SITUATION ANALYSIS**

Climate Change affects all regions of the world and its impacts are transboundary. Zambia and the Southern African countries in the region face similar challenges in addressing the causes as well as the impacts experienced by climate change such as floods, droughts and heat waves that have increased in intensity and frequency. From the Elnino and the La Nina being experienced, extreme weather events have continued to batter Zambia and the region at large.

From the droughts experienced in the region for the 2023/2024 rainfall pattern to the expected normal to above normal rainfall this season, its cardinal that science models, research including integration of indigenous knowledge systems is improved to inform decision making.

Zambia has put in place the National Climate Change Policy of 2016 that prioritizes Adaptation measures with key areas of interventions being capacity building, research and development, technology transfer and development. It is cardinal to note that the policy has identified land use change as one of the main drivers of climate change. This is attributed to unsustainable land natural resources use and management. Further the country has developed the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) of 2023 that recognises the low adaptive capacity of the country alongside the socio-economic factors with regard to vulnerability of communities and the nation.

### **3. PRESENTATION OF OUR COMMENTS AND POSITION ON RATIFICATION**

**Honorable Chairperson and Honorable Committee Members, it is against this background that we make submission of our comments and our position with regard to the Ramifications of Ratifying this Agreement.**

#### **3.1 Ramifications of the Agreement**

Here are our submissions Honorable Chairperson:

Honorable Chairperson and Committee members, we now proceed to give our position from a Civil Society Perspective.

We are glad that this Treaty was adopted in 2019 based on information from previous research and project activities undertaken within the countries that are Party thereof. Noting the key issues highlighted in the preamble,, we therefore make our submission.

Honourable Chairperson here are our submissions

- Article 3: Aims and Functions (Page 8); We find these to be relevant and are in line with our Climate Change Policy and the NAP. Special attention has been drawn to Section 1, from subsection e to h that brings in actions related to the exploration,introduction and extension of rational land management systems, promotion and implementation of policies and measures to effectively deal with climate change, strengthening of human capacities on economic impacts, land use adaptation and the conservation of water and biotic resources and development of models of best practices. Hon. Chairperson these are things that we highlighted even in our submission of the budget analysis with our concerns on the inadequate budget towards natural resources management.

#### **3.2 Our Position on Whether Zambia Should Ratify the SASSCAL TREATY**

Honorable Chairperson, having done the situation analysis and with the above comments, we submit that Zambia through the recommendation of this Committee Must Ratify the SASSCAL Treaty because it will contribute to address the challenges related to climate change and adaptation for land management that the country, the other Parties and region at large.

Given the potential benefits, we see ratifying the SASSCAL Treaty as a positive step toward improving climate resilience and sustainability. The current climate crisis poses considerable challenges to Zambia's agriculture, water resources, and infrastructure, thus adopting a regional

framework focusing on research, capacity building, and policy alignment would most certainly be beneficial.

SASSCAL's shared research and data are anticipated to benefit Zambia, including improving national climate models and informing policy decisions. The training programs and funding options would help Zambia achieve its aim of establishing a more qualified climate science workforce, while vocational training might assist local people in implementing sustainable land management techniques.

Hon. Chairperson we also further make our comments as general observations below;

### **3.3 Comments On Article 4: Portfolios**

Through scientific research, capacity building, and policy development, the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) may increase its influence on climate resilience and sustainable land management in Zambia. However, there must be deliberate and intentional resources dedicated for domesticating the treaty at national level through laws and policies such as Climate Change Bill, National Policy on Environment, National Climate Change Policy, Agriculture Act, Lands and Natural Resources Act and, Livestock and Fisheries Act, ZEMA Act, and many other environment legal frameworks.

#### **We also Note the Potential Concerns**

While ratification appears to be helpful in general, Zambia should guarantee that it has the requisite resources and political will to carry out the treaty's commitments. Negotiating financial arrangements ahead of time at domestic level and forming relationships with key stakeholders to achieve SASSCAL's commitments.

Zambia's ratification of the SASSCAL Treaty is projected to provide major benefits, putting the country among regional leaders in climate adaptation and sustainable development. Zambia might maximize the treaty's benefits while addressing potential problems through thorough implementation planning, monitoring, evaluation and resource security which should be guaranteed within the national budget and other resource opportunities such as Carbon Tax collections.

#### **Policy Development and Implementation**

1. Foster Greater Policy Alignment and Harmonization: SASSCAL could work to align national policies with regional sustainable development goals and international climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement. This alignment would ensure consistency across borders, making it easier to address transboundary environmental issues.

2. Increase Engagement with Policymakers and Stakeholders: By hosting regular workshops, forums, and roundtable discussions, SASSCAL could facilitate ongoing dialogue between scientists, policymakers, and community leaders. This would improve understanding of climate research findings and lead to more informed, actionable policies that address both local and regional needs.

#### **4. Conclusions**

In conclusion Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Committee, we believe that the Ratification of this Treaty is in the national interest and shall contribute to the achievement of the aspirations of the country's vision 2030 and in enhancing the implementation of the 8th NDP, The Land and Natural Resources Management related Policies such as the National Agriculture Policy and the Climate Change Policies.

Honorable Chairperson, we thank you for this opportunity and hope that our submission shall be considered by Parliament as the deliberate on the Ratification of this Agreement.

**Signed:**

**Name: Ms. Monica M. Chundama**

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Monica M. Chundama". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small blue mark at the beginning.

**Chairperson**

**Zambia Climate Change Network**

**DELEGATION**

**ZCCN**

**FDI**

**FIAN International Zambia**

**LMMU, School of Public Health**