

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY SAVE THE CHILDREN – COUNTRY  
DIRECTOR DURING 2022 JUDICIAL CONFERENCE 29<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER TO 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022 AT AVANI VICTORIA FALLS  
RESORT IN LIVINGSTONE**

**I take special recognition of the presence of;**

- His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema
- His Lordship, the Chief Justice of the Republic of Zambia, Hon. Justice Dr. Mumba Malila, SC,
- His Lordship, the Deputy Chief Justice of the Republic of Zambia, Hon. Mr. Justice Michael Musonda, SC
- The Deputy President of the Constitutional Court, Hon. Justice Prof. Margaret M. Munalula

**And at this juncture I would like to ride on the protocol well established by the Director of ceremonies.**

Save the Children gratefully receives this invitation to address this important 2022 Judicial Conference under the theme, “**Responsive and Accountable Judiciary**”.

Save the children is the world’s leading independent organization for children. We focus on the rights and needs of the most deprived and vulnerable children in communities, those most affected by inequality and discrimination. Our vision is to see “**a world in which every child attains the right to survival, development, protection and participation**”. In our strategy, we committed to ensuring that our work is focused on ensuring that children survive, learn and are protected.

Upholding the rights of all children has been **central to our global mission since 1919**. Here today, we commit to stand ready to **support firstly the Zambian government** in its effort to accelerate progress in fulfilling the

rights of children and **secondly to the Judiciary** of Zambia in achieving its mission to be **responsive and accountable** to the children of Zambia.

And in that regard, Save the Children is delighted with the recent enactment of the **Children's Code Act number 12 of 2022**, which has **consolidated child-related laws** to address the gaps that hinder responsiveness and accountability to children in the justice process. Guest of honour sir, we stand ready as an organization to partner with the Judiciary of Zambia to ensure that we **accelerate the implementation of the Children's Code Act and a child-sensitive Judiciary**.

Save the Children through the partnership with the Child Justice Forum, chaired by the Judiciary has been and continues to support, the **training of multi-sectoral child justice actors in Child Rights and Child Justice Administration**, to ensure that officers appreciate the processes that entail child-friendly services that enable the promotion and protection of children's rights in the national justice system. Through the years, the partnership has seen the implementation of several programmes and activities of which I'd like to highlight a few;

1. **Capacity Building of Magistrates, Prosecutors, Social Welfare Officers and Police Officers**, in child rights justice administration and diversion. *(We will shortly be supporting the rolling out of the Minimum Standards on Child Victims and Witnesses Guidelines in the Justice Process )*
2. **Engagements with Judges from the Family and Children's Division** of the High Court to understanding obstacles in dealing with child-related matters and finding solutions for strengthening the administration of Child Justice in order to protect children.
3. **Capacity Building for Clerk of Courts, Marshalls and Interpreters** in Case Record Management, accelerated records processing and child justice administration

4. **Monitoring of Child Justice Services** in Approved and Reformatory Schools and Monitoring of Juvenile Court Diversion Service Providers.
5. Provided Support to the **Development of child related bills** (E.g Family and Children's Court Bill)
6. Implemented **National Campaigns and Advocacy** on child rights and justice (E.g. Child Justice Week and community awareness and school sensitization)
7. In partnership with the **Child Justice Forum have restored and strengthened their district structures** to facilitate adequate processing of children

Save the Children is keen on continually establishing and resourcing child-friendly, age-appropriate, inclusive, safe and permanent mechanisms and spaces within the judicial processes and systems for child victims, child witnesses of violence, and children who come in conflict with the law.

Testifying in Court is a stressful experience for any witness, especially a child. As observed by Dziech and Schudson (1989);

***“Courtrooms were designed for the large number of adults who become participants and spectator in trials. Their furniture, lighting, acoustics, and uniformed personnel assure a serious and, in some ways, intimidating atmosphere. The theory is that in such an environment, witnesses and jurors will be more likely to take their responsibility seriously. For children, however the courtroom can do more than encourage civic responsibility -it can terrify and silence.***

*And I'd ask us all to consider this when dealing with children in the justice system*

In conclusion, to you the judicial representatives, SCI *implores* you to enhance the Judiciary's commitment towards Child Justice as we can assure you of our continued support and commitment through the Child Justice Forum and other platforms. We greatly value our continued partnership. I wish this Judicial Conference, fruitful deliberations during this week.

Thank you for listening