



JOINT 69TH LGAZ ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND 22ND AMICAALL GENERAL

CONFERENCE DECLARATION

We, the delegates comprising Mayors/Council Chairpersons, Deputy Mayors/Deputy Council Chairpersons, Aldermen, Councillors, Town Clerks, Council Secretaries, Senior Government Officials, Cooperating Partners, and other Stakeholders meeting as the Joint 69th LGAZ Annual Conference and 22nd AMICAALL General Assembly from 22nd to 25th July 2025 under the theme: **“innovative municipal financing and service delivery: pathways for sustainable growth and inclusive development”**

Welcoming with appreciation the wise counsel by His Excellency Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia during his address to the conference;

Thanking the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Her Excellency Ms. Beatrice Mutali, the Head of Office of the Canadian High Commission in Lusaka, Madam Corry Van Gaal, the Representative of the Germany Embassy, Mr. Akbar Mohabat, the South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA) President, Cllr. Stofile Bheke for their support and insights:

Acknowledging that climate change requires the cooperation of all stakeholders at international, national and local levels in a concerted effort to ensure an effective and appropriate response;

Considering the progress made so far in the AIDS local response and the need to sustain the positive results achieved, especially in the wake of shrinking resource envelop from key cooperating partners;

Welcoming the call by the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema for dialogue between Central Government, Traditional Leadership and Local Government in addressing challenges associated with the management of natural resources;

Approving the call by the Republican President to make property rates affordable as an incentive for compliance and enhanced collection efficiency:

Guided by the call made by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, for Local Authorities to embrace technology for improved service delivery;

Appreciating the call for digitisation in local government operations to among other things, enhance revenue mobilization at the local level.

Appreciating Government's commitment to establishing economic zones in all parts of the Country to promote economic growth;

Approving Government's efforts and resolve to decentralise as demonstrated through the progressive provisions of the 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Fiscal Architecture (IFA):

Noting the strategic position of Local Authorities in creating a conducive environment for Local Economic Development (LED) in their localities:

Reiterating our call for government to reinstate the five percent (5%) threshold contribution to the Local Government Equalization Fund from a total amount projected as income taxes for the financial year;

Reiterating our earlier calls for improved conditions of service for both elected and appointed non-unionized officials;

Recognizing the valuable contributions of cooperating partners in enhancing Local Authorities capacity to deliver on their mandate;

NOW RESOLVE THAT:

1. We place on record our appreciation to the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, yet again for accepting our invitation to grace the Joint 69th Annual Conference of LGAZ and the 22nd General Assembly of AMICAALL, as Guest of Honour.
2. We reaffirm our commitment to ensure prudent utilisation of public resources including the Local Government Equalisation Fund (LGEF) and the Constituency Development Fund (CDF);
3. We commit to boost local economic growth and make significant contributions to Zambia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by exploring innovative solutions such as opening up economic zones across our respective districts and provinces;

4. We commit to mobilise own source revenue for improved service delivery by exploring alternative funding sources such as Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) including the issuance of municipal bonds, among others;
5. We commit to leverage technology and digital tools to ensure efficiency in revenue collection and enhance transparency and citizen participation in local governance;
6. Government be engaged to reinstate the 5% threshold as contribution to the Local Government Equalization Fund from the total projected national income taxes for the financial year;
7. Government be engaged to fully implement the Intergovernmental Fiscal Architecture (2023-2027) in line with the implementation roadmap;
8. The Association's leadership continues engaging Central Government to review conditions of service for elected and appointed non-unionized officials in Local Authorities;
9. We commit to actively participate in Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) to highlight our efforts in localizing and actualising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Accordingly, we call upon relevant partners in this regard such as the UN system and the Ministry of Finance and National Planning (SGD unit) to collaborate with the Association in building our capacity to meaningfully contribute to this process;
10. We commit to collaborate with Civil Society Organisations and other relevant stakeholders in enhancing financial accountability and governance;
11. We commit to advancing the tenets of good financial governance by ensuring zero audit queries in the utilization of public resources;
12. We commit to promote gender equality and inclusion of people with disabilities in our operations and decision-making structures and processes to accommodate divergent opinions and fulfill the needs of our people in communities;

13. We commit to incorporate climate change in our annual plans and budgets in a bid to make meaningful contributions to climate action;
14. We commit to promote Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in addressing teenage pregnancies and HIV especially among adolescents;
15. We commit to strengthening the multi-sectoral coordination of HIV and AIDS local response through our District AIDS Coordinating Advisors (DACAs).