

**INTERVENTION BY THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE,
LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. S. MASANGA,
DURING A PANEL DISCUSSION ON INSTITUTIONALIZING
COMMITMENTS TO SAFEGUARD THE NEEDS AND
INTERESTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS: 24TH SESSION OF
THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION.**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to join you in this conversation on a subject of critical importance: the institutionalization of commitments to safeguard the needs and interests of future generations. As leaders of today, we owe it to future generations to bequeath to them, a world that is sustainable, equitable, and with endless opportunities for them to thrive.

At the 2024 Summit of the Future, we adopted the Declaration on Future Generations, which committed us to leveraging science, data, statistics and strategic foresight to ensure that we develop and implement sustainable practices, for the benefit of present and future generations.

The value of the science-policy interface in ensuring evidence-based, forward-looking, and responsive decision-making cannot be overstated. To this end, Zimbabwe continues to implement key strategies to bridge the gap between research and policy. Allow me to outline a few key interventions by the Government of Zimbabwe, which I have categorized into three broad areas: data, science, and innovation; governance; and the role of the youth.

In the **data, science, and innovation** field: we established the Zimbabwe National Geospatial and Space Agency (ZINGSA), as a means to harness space science and geospatial technologies for national development. ZINGSA provides satellite imagery and remote sensing data critical to monitoring climate change, agriculture, and disaster risk management. This ensures that policy decisions are based on accurate scientific insights and real-time data. These tools have improved Zimbabwe's disaster preparedness and early warning systems, particularly in flood- and drought-prone areas.

Additionally, we continue to make active efforts to integrate science and innovation into development strategies. The adoption of the Science, Technology and Innovation Start-Up Bill in September 2024, signals our intention to foster a knowledge-based economy and drive inclusive industrialization. The law supports the growth of innovation ecosystems through hubs, industrial parks, and preferential procurement for start-ups, while offering tax incentives to promote local innovation. We anticipate that the enhanced support for innovation, will create a conducive environment for science-policy dialogues to enhance evidence-informed decision-making across government.

Moreover, Zimbabwe has strengthened partnerships with academic and research institutions such as the Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC). These collaborations ensure that scientific findings are translated into practical and actionable government strategies.

On **governance**; we are cognizant of the fact that multilateral and domestic commitments can only be implemented to their fullest potential, within a prevailing enabling environment. We have, therefore, placed strategic foresight at the centre of our long-term

development planning, outlined in our national blueprint, Vision 2030. This transformative agenda integrates scenario analyses across all levels of governance, enabling proactive identification and response to emerging challenges in sectors such as agriculture, energy, health, and the environment. Our aim is to stay ahead of the curve, and remain within a state of preparedness to tackle any new challenges, and drive the sustainable development agenda, not just today, but well into the future.

To institutionalize this anticipatory approach, Zimbabwe established the Zimbabwe Centre for Futures Research (ZiCFR), a dedicated foresight think tank that provides strategic advisory services and conducts academic research in futures studies. Through ZiCFR, we are building national capacity for long-range planning and evidence-based policymaking. A key milestone was the successful hosting of Zimbabwe Futures Week in January 2023, in collaboration with the Millennium Project's Poland Node. This event brought together stakeholders from government, academia, and civil society to strengthen foresight literacy and mainstream futures methodologies into national planning processes.

Zimbabwe has also pioneered several innovative strategies to institutionalize sustainable practices for the benefit of future generations. The National Climate Policy and Climate Change Response Strategy are instrumental in embedding climate resilience across all development sectors. These policies promote adaptive practices such as the Pfumvudza initiative, a climate-proofing agriculture program that has significantly improved food security, while preserving environmental integrity.

To strengthen evidence-based governance, Zimbabwe has developed robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The Whole-of-Government Monitoring and Evaluation System

(WoGmas) enables comprehensive tracking of national programs and projects. By generating reliable data, this platform ensures transparent, data-driven decision-making that aligns with our national development goals.

On **the role of the youth**, Government is alive to the fact that we cannot effectively implement plans for future generations, without amplifying the voices of the youth, particularly within decision-making platforms. It is for this reason that Zimbabwe prioritizes actions that are aimed at addressing the unique challenges that are faced by the youth, and ensuring their holistic wellbeing. Approximately 62% of Zimbabwe's population is under the age of 25, a demographic dividend that presents both vast potential and significant challenges. Despite a high literacy rate of 90%, young people face considerable barriers in transitioning from education to employment or entrepreneurship.

To address these challenges, Zimbabwe has established Youth Innovation Hubs at all state universities to foster science-driven entrepreneurship. These hubs support the development of cutting-edge solutions in agri-technology, fintech, and digital health, creating jobs and driving sustainable economic growth.

Zimbabwe has institutionalized mechanisms to ensure the inclusion of young people in governance through child parliaments, junior councils, and a children's scorecard introduced during the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process. These platforms empower young voices and promote intergenerational dialogue in national decision-making.

The cumulative impact of all these interventions is significant, as steps are being taken to ensure that future generations inherit from

us, systems and institutions that are driven by science, and responsive to the development needs of the future.

In conclusion, institutionalizing commitments to safeguard the needs and interests of future generations requires a dynamic, integrated, and inclusive approach. Zimbabwe's experience demonstrates the value of aligning national strategies with science, foresight, and broad stakeholder participation. Our multi-sectoral efforts, spanning education, environmental management, innovation, and governance; reflect our deep commitment to sustainable development and intergenerational equity. As we continue on this path, we reaffirm our resolve to collaborate with international partners in building a just, resilient, and prosperous future for all.

I thank you.