



## **REMARKS**

**BY**

**Ms. MAPOLAO ROSEMARY MOKOENA,  
DIRECTOR-INFRASTRUCTURE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
THE THIRTY-FIRST SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL CLIMATE  
OUTLOOK FORUM (SARCOF-31)**

**Monday 08 September 2025**

**LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

Thank you Director of Ceremonies

**Dr Douty Chibamba, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment for the Republic of Zambia**

**Eng. Romas Kamanga, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation of the Republic of Zambia**

**Mr. Norman Chipakupaku, National Coordinator, Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) for the Republic of Zambia**

**Dr Joshua Ngaina, World Meteorological Organisation Representative for Eastern and Southern Africa/ Project Officer for Regional Office for Africa**

**Mr Catalin Gherman, Head of Cooperation for the European Union Delegation Botswana**

**Mr Edson Nkonde, Director Meteorological Department and Permanent Representative of Zambia with the World Meteorological Organisation**

**Directors and Permanent Representative with WMO from SADC Member States  
Representative from Water, Energy, Food, Health sectors and Disaster Risk  
Management**

**Representatives of our International Cooperating Partners**

**Representatives from ClimSA Implementing Partners WMO, JRC, EUMETSAT  
and OACPS Secretariat;**

**Climate experts of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs)  
in SADC Member States ;**

**Delegates from the SADC Regional Organisations;**

**Members of the Media;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**A very good Morning to you all.**

It is my great pleasure to welcome to you all to this 31st Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook. I wish to begin by conveying my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Zambia for their warm hospitality and for providing the necessary resources and support that have made this gathering possible.

SARCOF-31 marks the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) and final forum convened under the SADC ClimSA programme. Since SARCOF-25, the first held within the framework of ClimSA, we have witnessed a remarkable growth in the forum's scope, stakeholder engagement, technical capacity, and overall quality of both the forum itself and the forecast produced. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the European Union, as the funder of the ClimSA Programme, as well as those who have worked tirelessly, provided support and contributed to SARCOF throughout the journey.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to our regional and international cooperating partners. Your presence here today underscores the vital role of collaboration in advancing sustainable development and climate resilience in our region, particularly through the ongoing co-design of climate services.

The theme of this SARCOF is “***Closing the Early Warning Gap Together within the SADC region***”. We have several sessions during this gathering dedicated to this important priority. A key highlight will be the validation of the SADC Multi-Hazard Early Warning System, featuring the presentation of the draft Regional Multi-Hazard Monitoring Framework and Schematic Design, along with tools and instruments to strengthen Regional Early Warning Monitoring and Alerting.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

In this SARCOF, we are placing particular focus to the Media and Health sectors to emphasise the importance of broadening both the reach and practical use of seasonal forecast, while advancing efforts in developing tailored climate services.

Later this morning, a policy dialogue with the Health Sector will examine the opportunities to strengthen collaboration between climate and health stakeholders, and to ensure that climate information is effectively applied and adapted to support health services. The discussion will draw on lessons from the 2023-2024 cholera outbreak in Zambia, which underscored the critical need for climate-informed health interventions.

The Media plays a vital role in shaping public awareness and influencing behavior around climate change and related risks. Yet, this task is not without challenges. The complexity of scientific language often make it difficult to communicate effectively with the general public. Moreover, while climate information includes seasonal forecasts and early warnings, media coverage tends to be dominated by the broader climate change debate.

Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) are central to addressing these challenges. Digital platforms, social media and mobile applications provide new opportunities to bridge gaps in communication, expand outreach, and enhance engagement. It is our hoped that this session will foster strong collaboration among the climate services community, the media and ICT actors, leading to practical actions and joint initiatives.

As we commence SARCOF-31, I encourage you all to actively engage with the discussions, share your insights, and put forward valuable feedback and recommendations to the climate services community represented here.

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive and inspiring forum.

**MERCI BEAUCOUP**  
**MUINTO O`BRIGADO,**  
**ASANTE SANA**  
**THANK YOU**

**08 September 2025**  
**Lusaka, Zambia**