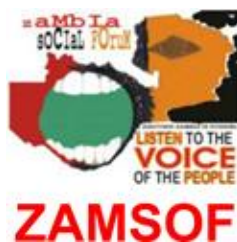


# 2023

## ZAMBIA SOCIAL FORUM ANNUAL REPORT



Report Compiled by ZAMSOF Secretariat



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In 2023, the Zambia Social Forum faced challenges due to debt restructuring, affecting economic performance and increasing inequality. Despite this, ZAMSOF achieved successes in project implementation, programs, and activities.

ZAMSOF successfully implemented sustainable fisheries activities in Mazabuka and Sinazongwe Districts, promoting sustainable resource management supported by ECO FISH and the European Union.

The Organization also carried out debt justice campaigns and participated in the processes of the Doha Plan of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDC), ZAMSOF prepared for the 2023 SADC Peoples Summit in Angola, conducted national consultative processes, hosted pre and post-coordination, and mobilized participants.

IBON International Climate Change movement supports environmental justice in Copperbelt Mufulira. ZAMSOF members in Zambia participated in Global Actions Against Climate Change, focusing on corporate capture of energy transitions, land, and food.

ZAMSOF's international engagement includes launching African CSOs on ACFTAs, attending the United Nations Fifth Conference on Least Developed Countries held in Qatar, and participating in the People's 20 Assembly ahead of the G20 summit held in India.

The Organisation likewise focuses on the use of a human rights-based approach (HRBA), social inclusion, and gender mainstreaming programming as it implements activities and projects. Overall, the year 2023 interventions were in areas of fisheries, food sovereignty, Agroecology, debt justice, governance, climate change, environment, energy, land, and national, regional, and international solidarity work.

The Forum contributed to a research paper on neoliberalism and globalization in areas of land and food. With Support from the Department of Fisheries, ZAMSOF was represented at the 2023 World Aquaculture Society conference hosted by Zambia.

ZAMSOF held its eleventh National Social Forum on sustainable future building and launched the ZAMSOF Youth Connect Initiative on October 20, 2023, at Lusaka Civic Centre. On the other hand, participated in the sixth Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival a joint initiative led by CSO consortium members.

Thus, we express our gratitude to all partners, Partners in Development, CSOs, Community members, and Media for their invaluable support in ensuring a successful 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gershom Kabaso Jr'.

**Gershom Kabaso Jr**  
**National Coordinator Zambia Social Forum**  
**(ZAMSOF)**

## Samson background

### Background, Vision, Mission, Goal – Achievements

Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) is an open platform for citizens to discuss democracy on broad-based issues affecting them. Established in 2003, it is part of the World Social Forum of CSOs and has been organized annually in towns and communities. The forum aims to improve citizen participation in policy-making for national sustainable development and build community, regional, and global solidarity around social, ecological, political, and economic justice. It also provides human alternatives to neo-liberal discourse and challenges the status quo.

### MISSION

The Forum aims to engage citizens, community groups, and CSOs on a platform for citizen participation in policy-making, promoting better life and service delivery, and fostering sustainable development.

### VISION AND BELIEFS AND VALUES

A society without injustices and poverty, promoting respect for human rights, democracy, peaceful relations, and equality. Emphasizing empowerment, inclusivity, and solidarity with the poor, this society promotes non-religious, nonpartisan, and non-partisan approaches.

## Highlights Project /Programmes/ Campaigns

### Zambia Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Program(ZSSFP)



Zambia Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries Project (ZSSFP) was implemented by a consortium led by ActionAid Zambia in partnership with Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) and Keeper Zambia Foundation (KFZ). The overall objective is to enhance the social, economic, and environmentally sustainable management of the small-scale fisheries in Zambia. The project aims to strengthen small-scale fisheries management and governance to protect livelihood. Enhancing equitable economic growth by promoting environmentally sustainable management of small-scale fisheries in Zambia.

Major outcomes development and production of the User Guide Manual to strengthen community participation in the co-management, sustainable management of fisheries resources in Zambia. Over 1,000 copies were distributed to the government fisheries officers of Southern, Luapula, and Northern provinces with support from the Department of Fisheries. The project contributed to the Fisheries policy engagements which also launched in the year 2023.

The Zambia sustainable small-scale fisheries program, funded by the European Union under the ECO-FISH program, was implemented in Lusaka, Southern, and Western provinces of Zambia by ActionAid Zambia, Keeper Zambia Foundation, and Zambia Social Forum. The project aimed to improve livelihoods, food





security, capacity building, co-managing, Aquaculture, gender empowerment, and sustainable fisheries resource management.

Three research studies were conducted, including a baseline survey, fish preservation research, and value chain analysis. A Fisheries Co-management manual was developed in Zambia, educating 4,758 small-scale fishers and 60 fisheries officers on tenure security and sustainable small-scale fisheries. 2,440 fishers gained rights and control over water and fisheries resources. The ministry is working on a harmonized fisheries policy.

The Department of Fisheries trained 3,915 small-scale fishers on sustainable fisheries management, established and strengthened women and youth leadership fishers' platforms, and trained 896 people in integrated fishing and farming. Additionally, 441 peer community volunteers were trained in value addition, and 4,660 fishers were trained in leadership-building skills, resulting in 309 women and youths holding local leadership positions.

#### Climate Justice Project – Capacity Building Initiative to Improve Citizen Participation



IBON International on a project called Climate Justice –Capacity building initiative to improve citizen participation in local, national, and international climate policy making phase 2.

Movement Building On Climate Adaptation Advocacy Campaign - Mufulira Municipal Council Mayor accompanied by four local councilors from Kankoyo, Butondo Mutundu, and Kantanshi wards held interface engagements meetings with local communities

on the climate change and environmental-related issues. The meeting was held at Kamukolwe farm block in Mufulira. As a result of the continuous processes working closely with policy makers at local community levels a great number of projects and initiatives have been eye-marked as a contribution to building community resilience to climate change Adaptation and protection of the communities from the drivers of the environmental pollution. The project is being supported by IBON International in collaboration with the Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) and the Development Education and Community Programme (DECOP) based in Mufulira.

A major outcome of the engagement was the production of the position paper in line with the global day of action against the corporate capture of just transition energy at COP28 held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The article went live in the climate justice hub check the details on this link;

<https://www.climatejusticehub.org/2023/11/23/for-whom-a-reflection-on-human-rights-challenges-in-africas-clean-energy-shift/>



Additionally, ZAMSOF members from within Lusaka, Mongu, Mufulira, Chama, and Chipata districts took part in the global solidarity campaign called **Online Speak-Out** on November 23 and December 9 during the global day of action for climate justice to draw attention to the impacts of corporate capture of energy transition in different communities under the Decolonize to Decarbonize –Our call to action for climate justice at COP28. A campaign aimed to bring to the attention how imperialist countries in the global north and their corporations are using the climate crisis to co-opt people's demands to transition away from fossil fuels to further colonize global south frontiers for resource grabbing and exploitation.

The demands at COP28 were; to phase out all forms of fossil fuels, uphold a people-led energy transition, global north countries must fulfill their financial obligations, polluters out, people in, and many other local demand messages as displayed on Zamsos's Facebook page. The digital campaign was successful as it brought out key issues faced by most women from the rural sector.



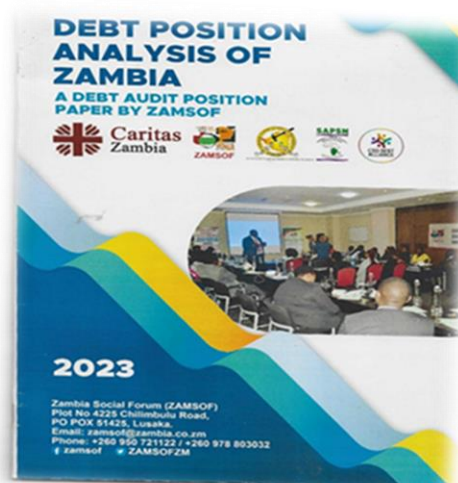


## Citizen Action Against Debt in the Southern Africa Region



CITIZEN ACTION FOR DEBT JUSTICE PROJECT is a Southern African project that was being implemented in four countries to stimulate and strengthen citizen-led actions to address the ongoing sovereign debt crises in the SADC Region with a particular focus on Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Citizen Action for Debt Justice in Southern Africa is an initiative that seeks to address the sovereign debt crises in Southern Africa through a vibrant, diverse, and growing Regional Movement with the capacity to amplify the voices of women, youth, and other marginalized groups during critical national, regional and global decision-

making platforms. In addition, it advocates for accountability, and transparency of the national debt management process, and provides a democratic global debt resolution architecture.



The key output was the production and validation of the Zambia Debt Situation report which attracted input from citizens, CSOs included representation by Debt Alliance. The Validation and Dissemination Meeting on Debt Audit and Situation Analysis Report was held on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 at Kapingila House in Lusaka in collaboration with Caritas Zambia. The report was further shared with the Ministry of Finance and National Planning for further comments and feedback. The report was later shared with among organizations especially one working in debt-related work.

### Peoples Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)

Zambia Social Forum's Africa Coordinator for Peoples Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) participated in global webinars, solidarity press statements, and caravans focusing on food sovereignty, Agroecology, farmer rights, and sustainable agricultural practices. The campaign, led by rural people's movements globally, is a 3-year effort to defeat corporate control over agriculture and create a future free from hunger



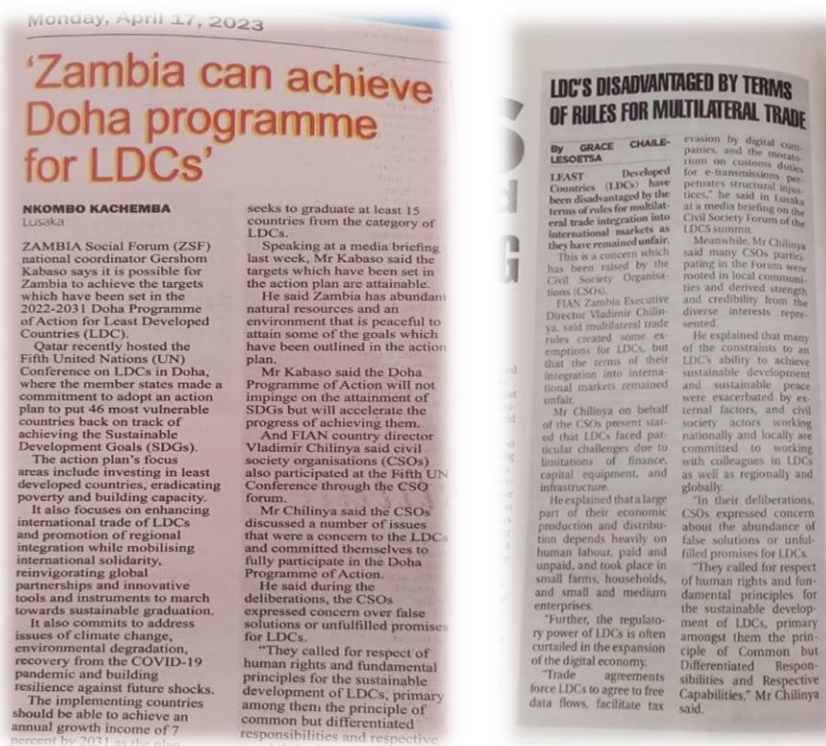
The overall goal is to create a future free from hunger, dispossession, and destruction entails defeating imperialist control over food and agriculture. Call to action to radical food systems transformation, Not climate crisis Profiteering. Demanding an end to a corporate monopoly over land, water, and natural resources and genuine participation of rural peoples in climate policy.

The interventions created a future free from hunger, dispossession, and destruction, defeated imperialist control over food and agriculture, demanded an end to corporate monopoly over land, water, and natural resources, and involved rural people in climate policy. ZAMSOF moderated a session at COP28 on December 5, 2023, highlighting the lack of voices and false climate solutions.





## Least Development Countries (LDC Watch) – Country Feedback Meeting



The Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOFA) being the Country Focal Point and Southern Africa Representative for LDC Watch I is mandated to coordinate, mobilize, and form partnerships among CSOs within Zambia and Southern Africa to engage Civil Society for Advancing Implementation and Monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) for the LDCs government for the Decade 2022-2031 on the Doha Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDC Watch).

The Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOFA) on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 organized a feedback Media Press conference at Sarovar Hotel in Lusaka on the Doha Plan of Action (DPoA) in response to the Doha meeting in Qatar. The event attracted over 10 media houses and 15 CSOs, including 7 youth representative organizations.

ZAMSOFA National Representative gave a presentation on the LDC work the presentation covered the following themes; Doha program of action (DPoA) for the LDCs for the Decade 2022-2031; History of LDC, LDCs attaining graduation; LDCs in the process of graduation, Programme of action on LDC graduation; criteria for graduation; Present challenges; what need to be done –sustainable graduation, objectives of DPoA; Role of CSOs; Doha major outcomes; and concluding remarks

Additionally, the Focal Point for LDC and other CSO members made a courtesy call that was aimed to share briefly the outcomes of the DPoA and to touch base with the United Nations on the need to start moving together. CSOs' role is to provide checks and accountability and support the Government and its partners in the implementation of the Doha Plan of Action (DPoA) between 2021 and 2030.





The United Nations System Resident Coordinator, Ms. Beatrice Mutali, welcomed the CSO members and emphasized the importance of inclusivity in the roadmap to graduation of countries from LDC status. The Doha Plan of Action (DPoA) future will be determined in consultation with the Zambia Government. CSOs are encouraged to work with the UN on the development agenda.

## Annual Program Activities Events at National, Regional, and Global levels

### Southern Africa Development Community – Peoples Summit



The SADC People summit was held in Luanda, Angola from 17-19 August 2022 under the central theme: *“Justice Meaningful Participation - Inclusion”*. Before the summit preparations for this event began earlier in the year ZAMSOF took the lead as Southern Africa Peoples Solidarity Network (SAPSN) country focal point organization. CSPR supported ZAMSOF one of the preparatory meetings that formed part

of the engagements towards Zambia communique development. The communique was further submitted to the Country SADC Desk office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and SAPSN Regional office to inform them of feed into the final regional communique that was consolidated at the Regional summit for the onward submission to the SADC Head of States. From Zambia over five (5)

represented Zambia in Angola. Details of the SADC Peoples Summit are on the following: <https://sapsn.net/2023-sadc-peoples-summit-luanda/>

Over 56 organizations contributed to national consultative processes held during the year culminating in the development of the National position paper. These Organizations include; grassroots social movements, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), smallholder farmer movements, women's organizations, youth organizations, children's rights movements, persons with disabilities/gender/ consumer, and movements representing the various thematic groups.

The Participating Organizations and social movements are encouraged to use the current common communiqué to inform policy advocacy work and individual organization interventions agenda.



### Sixth Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival October 2023



The Sixth Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival was held under the theme; Celebrating Traditional Seed and Food for Healthy, Safe and Nutrition Food for People, Planet and the Economy. The event was held on 13-14 October 2023 at Mundawanga Botanical Garden in Lusaka. About sixteen (16) CSOs co-organized the event, Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) was among the organizers of the event and took part in the food and seed exhibitions which were exhibited by Katongo Bwalya local farmer in sustainable farming based in Shibuyunji central/Mumbwa district.

The Indian High Commissioner to Zambia highlighted the historical association of seed and food with agricultural activities, highlighting the importance of Indian agricultural development.



The festival highlights Zambia's biodiversity loss due to colonial policies affecting access to traditional foods and farming practices. This shift has led to increased reliance on non-local sources, resulting in lifestyle diseases and eroded knowledge about indigenous food sources among tribal populations, particularly younger educated generations.

The Festival highlighted the significance of traditional seeds in maintaining cultural integrity, food security, and nutritional security, featuring farmers, CSOs, government officials, and interested individuals.

The general public was sensitized to sustainable consumption of food by promoting farmers' rights to food production that is sustainable, and culturally accepted with a lens of human rights.

### The eleventh Edition of Zambia National Social Forum Lusaka, Zambia

The Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Social Forum on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 at Lusaka Civic Centre under the central theme; **Building a Sustainable Future Through Stewardship and Inclusive Governance**. Moreover, the event was a commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ZAMSOF from 2003 -2023. About 90% of the participants were young people majority of young girls and women drawn from CSOs, Social groups, and Youth-led Organizations including Kamoto Community Arts who provided Arts of Creation and ensemble dances to entertain the participants.



Plenary sessions were facilitated by the *Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Alliance for Advocates Accountability (AAAZ), Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD), and Fight Inequality Zambia*. Sara Longwe presented the background of the ZAMSOF and solidarity message in line with the theme. ZAMSOF National Coordinator presented the objectives and expectations of the event. In addition, the Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD) conducted a gallery walk on budget tracking monitoring and governance for citizens' meaningful participation in the processes at the ward levels.

The Forum was moderated by comrades Miga Wilfred and Rebecca Bowa from PELUM Zambia.

There were self-organized exhibitions and breakaway sessions that highlighted collective reports from the cluster groups as outlined below: -



## Collective Report from The Cluster Groups:

### Cluster One: Inclusive Governance + Gender + Youth

The cluster One issue revolves around inclusive governance, gender equality, and youth. Concerns include bureaucracy, lack of guidance, and youth sensitization. It's suggested to balance support for both genders, empower females, and overcome language barriers. Solutions include young people sensitizing peers, eliminating prejudices and discrimination, embracing local languages in public offices, and promoting equality of genders. Partnerships between males and females should also be encouraged for better access to resources and services.

### Cluster Two: Social Economic Sustainability

The Cluster Two discussion revolves around social economic sustainability in Zambia, addressing issues such as living conditions, child labor, unemployment, and health issues. Solutions include social cash transfers, skills-based empowerment, financial literacy, and community development. To address unemployment, the government should focus on the industrial sector, revise education curricula, and focus on skills building. In the health sector, emphasis should be placed on ethics, increased budget allocation for medication acquisition, and the creation of local medicines to address storage challenges. More medical personnel should be employed in the sector.

### Cluster Three: Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is a critical concern, with issues such as increased carbon emissions, uncontrolled garbage burning, plastic pollution, littering, and limited renewable energy. Solutions include carbon tax funds, reduced deforestation, afforestation, recycling, policy implementation, law interpretation, organized dumping sites, and conservation. These measures aim to address climate issues, reduce deforestation, and promote sustainable practices.

### Cluster Four: Land, Agriculture, and Food Security

Food insecurity in Zambia is a major concern, with many families struggling to afford three meals a day. Misuse of fertilizers, lack of sensitization to chemicals, and insufficient maize production are also issues. Solutions include raising awareness, building capacity in farmers, planting trees annually, and implementing taxes on vehicles. Accessible roads, storage houses, and small-scale farming can help ensure food security and promote sustainable practices.

### Cluster Five: Sustainable Development Goals

Zambia faces challenges in promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to limited awareness, funding, infrastructure, political instability, and changes in government priorities. Solutions include public awareness campaigns, collaborations between government, private sector, and CSOs, and incorporating local community-based programs into policy.

The event provided a broad framework for exploring issues related to sustainability and governance and offered an opportunity for participants to engage in thoughtful and constructive dialogue on these important topics including social, economic, environmental, climate change and accountability, Local Governance, and SDGs among many themes. The event fostered dialogue, collaboration, and action on critical issues toward building a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive future.

## Launch of ZAMSOF Youth Connect Initiative during the National Social Forum

The Launch of the ZAMSOF Youth Connect Initiative was one of the main outputs of the National Social Forum. Sara Longwe ZAMSOF Guardian and Guest of Honour from the Ministry of Local Governance

and Rural Development- Lusaka City Council graced the occasion. Luyando Mweene one of the Youth coordinators gave the maiden speech. ZAMSOF Youth Connect Initiative is under ZAMSOF apex with a quest to provide meaningful participation of the young in the decision-making and programming on broad-based issues that foster sustainable development.



The Zamsof Youth Connect Initiative is for the Youth and by the Youth. It aims to build Youth Civic Engagement by initiating dialogues, creating opportunities for capacity building, and serving as a dependable source of simplified information for the youth and the general public.

The event was held at Lusaka City Council and it was graced by Councilors, Civil Society leaders, Representatives of the Media, and Youths from various walks of life.

The youth has developed an interim strategic working plan for the year 2024 and beyond. The expected outputs and outcomes are membership recruitments, resource mobilization with ZAMSOF awareness raising on challenges faced by the young people in key development sectors, and network and movement building at different levels.

### [2023 AFAQ –Aquaculture Africa – World Aquaculture Society](#)

With support from GIZ and the Department of Fisheries Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) as Technical Working Group Chairperson for Communications and Outreach took part in the 2023 AFRAQ Aquaculture Africa hosted by the Republic of Zambia under the theme *Resilient Value Chains in the Blue Economy* “

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Conference and Exposition of the African Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society (AFRAQ2023) event convened voices across the African continent and globe to discuss the crucial role of sustainable and innovative financing in the growing aquaculture industry and to discuss ways of resolving constraints around sustainable financing to unleash the potential of aquaculture.

The event was characterized by broad-based self-organized side events, discussions, exhibitions, and social network activities among local and global delegates.

The event convened voices across the African continent which discussed the crucial role of sustainable and innovative financing in growing the aquaculture industry. Discussed ways of resolving constraints around sustainable financing to unleash the potential of aquaculture. Furthermore, it highlighted the importance of innovative and sustainable financing to the growth of gender-sensitive aquaculture, catalyzed the unlocking of public and private sector financing of inclusive aquaculture models, and inspired the government to create policies and incentives among others to spur the growth of aquaculture.

## Highlights of the International Engagement / Regional /National

### 2023 Global Week of Action Against Inequality SADC People's Economic Forum

The SADC Peoples Economic Forum, Fight Inequality Zambia, Inequality Zimbabwe, OXFAM, Southern Peoples Solidarity Network, and Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development organized solidarity and policy workshops in Zambia from 17 to 21 January 2023 ahead of the Annual Economic Forum in Davos.

The Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) Coordinator facilitated a workshop on Zambia's debt situation, and 45 people participated in a public inequality rally. ZAMSOF organized (4) radio shows at Metro FM, Christian Voice Radio, and Millennium radio stations, (1) TV shows held at ZNBC, and (1) press conferences to raise awareness and influence public policy towards just and equitable solutions to the inequality crisis in Southern Africa.

Members of ZAMSOF made up of 23 posters that contributed to the campaign message that sent a powerful digital campaign amplified and highlighted the urgent need to place economic justice against inequality on the policy and developmental agenda of the region.

The campaign strengthened solidarity against inequality and influenced public discourse for a SADC protocol on inequality reduction. Thinking global while acting local as an ongoing campaign process with the region.



### Peoples 20 Assembly – Ahead of G20 Global Summit in New Delhi, India August 2023

The People's 20 Assembly held 22-24 August 2023, organized by Peoples' 20, is a collaborative effort to address global challenges and prepare for the upcoming G20 Summit in New Delhi, aiming to influence world leaders' agenda and actions.

The People's 20 Assembly, a global network of civil society actors, concluded in New Delhi on August 24. The assembly, which included over 300 delegates from India and around the world, aimed to address global challenges and shape policy recommendations for the G20 Summit.

Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) Gershom Kabaso through LDC Watch was invited to present a paper titled; *African Experiences on Strengthening Global Processes for an Equitable Pandemic Accord and Ensuring*



*Equitable Access to Vaccines and Medical Technologies.* The key message was globalized patent rights and eliminating patent rights barriers for production non-patentees have been effectively resisted though The Doha Program of Action has reaffirmed the decision of the council for trade-related aspects of intellectual property Rights (TRIPS) to extend the transition period under article 66.I of the TRIP Agreements for LDC until January 2033.

Looking into the future the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) can provide the framework for leveraging economies of scale to stimulate the production of needed vaccines across the region.

Globalizing the production to equitable access to life-saving vaccines, Treatment, and tests is a must, It is everyone's Responsibility to learn from the grave realities of the past COVID-19 a lot has to be done between governments from global north and south

In conclusion, the assembly issued a declaration calling for transformative change and collaboration on global issues to unite in a common purpose and navigate the global transition with a commitment to cultivating a more equitable, sustainable, and just global order. The G20 Summit, set for September 9-10, 2023, was crucial for this change.

### United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries on Doha Plan of Action

The Fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries took place in Qatar from 4-9 March 2023. Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) played a crucial role in the consultative processes for the Doha Plan of Action, which was approved by the UN. The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031 (DPoA) aims to achieve sustainable development for the world's 46 LDCs and influence national and international policies. Civil society engagement in the UN's work helps build support for sustainable development, brings their expertise, and influences national and international policies. The Civil Society Track for LDC5 is organized in collaboration with a Core Group of civil society organizations, including LDC-Watch, Global Policy Forum, Third World Network, and Social Watch.

The Doha Plan of Action aims to involve civil society in implementing and monitoring the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for 2022-2031, promoting sustainable development and meaningful participation. LDC Watch and the CSO core group are working on the strategic papers to advance the work of the recently approved Doha Plan of Action (DPOA).



## LDC CIVIL SOCIETY ASSEMBLY ON THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOHA PROGRAM OF ACTION (DPOA)

LDC Watch organized a side event titled "LDC Civil Society Assembly on the Effective Implementation of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) and Way Forward" on March 8, 2023, to discuss LDC-specific challenges and mobilize commitments for DPoA's implementation. Key figures from 46 LDCs and other developing countries attended the event, discussing human rights, national strategies, and international implications. The assembly aimed to promote collaboration among LDC CSOs to implement strategies aligned with DPoA's goals and recognized development objectives, highlighting the importance of forging connections with governments and organizations.

Key figures from Nepal, the UN, and other organizations delivered remarks at a conference on LDC engagement. A strategy planning session was moderated by Arjun Karki LDC Watch Global Coordinator and Gershom Kabaso Jr from Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) focusing on effective engagement with CSOs on the Doha Plan of Action.

The assembly emphasized the importance of collaboration among LDC CSOs to implement strategies aligned with DPoA's goals and global development objectives, fostering connections with governments and organizations.

## Launch of Africa CSO on Africa Continental Free Trade Areas (ACFTAs) Nairobi, Kenya

### LOCATING THE NEXUS OF TRADE AND CLIMATE: ADVANCING PEOPLE-CENTERED TRADE AND CLIMATE ACTION IN AFRICA BACKGROUND

IBON Africa was delighted to invite the ZAMSOF National Coordinator and the secretary of IBON Africa Board of Trustees to a back-to-back regional workshop and policy dialogue on the nexus of trade and climate CSO on AFCTA held on 16018 in August in Nairobi, Kenya. Mr Kabaso facilitated the plenary on the African CSO platform on Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) as well as the Launch of the African CSO platform.

The event aimed to spark discussions and debates on the nexus of trade and climate focusing on the agricultural understanding of how policymakers shape trade policies that in turn only exacerbate the climate crisis, to develop policy recommendations, and advocate for good governance that addresses the impacts of unjust trade practices to the climate crisis and promote sustainable consumption and production. to organize s CSO platform on the AFCFTA and explore available spaces within the African region.

Launched African CSO on the AFCFTAs by Gershom Kabaso IBON Africa Secretary to the Board of Trustees, and facilitated the plenary session - Africa CSO on the AFCFTAs.





The resolutions and recommendations were to be discussed to roll out discussions on the impacts of AFCTAs on the African economy to people-powered to sustainable consumption.

The Background information; The World Trade Organization (WTO) and other trade and investment agreements in Africa have led to the expansion of mono-crop plantations, chemical-based agriculture, and hazardous production processes. These practices, promoted by private corporations, contribute to biodiversity loss, natural disasters, and resource grabbing from communities, farmers, and indigenous peoples. These trade policies worsen the climate crisis and exacerbate poverty, inequality, and conflict within the region. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a major free trade agreement that seeks to deepen Africa's integration into the global capitalist system. However, civil society organizations are concerned about exclusion, trade injustice, and plunder of natural resources. The AfCFTA also paves the way for policies that prioritize commercial interests over protecting people's rights to basic social services. IBON Africa plans to organize a regional workshop and policy dialogue to discuss the nexus of trade and climate, focusing on the agriculture sector, and develop policy recommendations to address the impacts of unjust trade practices on the climate crisis and promote sustainable consumption and production.

Additionally, under IBON Africa ZAMSOF Coordinator gave the synthesis and closing remarks on the hybrid webinar titled: **Reclaim Our Land, Forest, and Rivers: A CSO Review 's Climate Change Act'** The event was held in Nairobi on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 ahead of the Regional and Global consultations on Nature Based Solutions at United Nations Environmental Programme ( UNEP)

<https://www.unep.org/events/working-group/final-intergovernmental-consultations-nature-based-solutions>

The objectives of the event were to increase Kenya Civil Society awareness and knowledge of the Amended Climate Change Act, especially on how carbon trading and carbon markets incorporated in the Amended Climate Change Act facilitate the corporate capture of climate in Kenya, and to coordinate initiatives with other CSOs for enhanced advocacy.

Kenya's Climate Change Act introduced carbon trading as a nature-based solution to climate change, promising sustainability and resilience. However, misinformation and climate change illiteracy reveal corporate capture and greenwashing agendas. IBON Africa aims to illuminate the complex workings of carbon trading and carbon markets, exposing their potential to undermine climate justice. The campaign aims to empower Kenyan civil society organizations with a comprehensive understanding of the Climate Change Act, dispelling greenwashing and enabling a people-centered approach. Objectives include increasing awareness, mobilizing climate justice activists, and coordinating initiatives with other CSOs for people-powered climate action.



## International Peoples Research Conference Nairobi, Kenya and CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness Private Sector Research participation by ZAMSOF

Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) was represented during the International Peoples Research Network conference held in June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The research paper presented by the National Coordinator was titled: **Land and Food in Africa –How Neoliberal Globalization is Impacting Agricultural Production and Peasants' Lives and livelihood.** The research paper covered the following countries; Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Tanzania, Philippines, Senegal, and Uganda

The background of the research was Africa faces challenges in land and agricultural systems due to Neo Colonialist policies, with transnational corporations and richer states acquiring land for agricultural production. This resurgence is attributed to neoliberalism and globalization, exacerbated by food insecurity issues.

The study explores the exploitation and oppression of smallholder and landless peasant farmers by transnational corporations and their growers, examining their impact on agricultural production systems, and social, economic, and political aspects.

The conclusion and discussions were that neoliberal policies exploit food production, trade, and markets, with high globalization and unequal access to land. Women are disadvantaged, and commercialization limits crop rotation. Commercialization limits biodiversity science, and excessive chemical use threatens agri-farming land, affecting peasant farmers and poor biodiversity.

The recommendations; text emphasizes the need for strengthening advocacy for sustainable agricultural systems, empowering peasant farmers, and implementing policies to manage land allocations and protect them from land grabs. It also suggests implementing agroecological policies, law reforms on local seeds, and promoting sustainable farming practices.

The second research that ZAMSOF contributed to was titled *Private Sector Watch: Global Synthesis Report 2023* compiles new case studies highlighting analyses on the increasing role of the private sector in development cooperation. The paper was commissioned by the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. Find out more about the key findings in the report! Read and download the Report: <https://bit.ly/PSWatch-Report-2023>.

## Challenges and Looking into the Future

### Challenges

Limited financial resources to meet the growing demands of social, economic, environmental, and ecological due to the effects of the new world order, Thus, ZAMSOF will implore more strategic fundraising efforts and create partnerships to resolve budget constraints in its programming. Strengthening capacities among the local community partners in the projects through in-house training support. Gender empowerment in economic affairs and access to the general control of natural resources seems to be a challenge in the women's sector, ZAMSOF is working on a comprehensive program to benefit more women and young girls in the coming year and beyond. Gender-sensitive, response and transformation approach will ensure women are the main target for meaningful participation at all levels.

## Looking into the Future

The Zambia Social Forum envisages promoting social, economic environmental, cultural, and ecologically sustainable development. It will foster the establishment of new partnerships and network movement building among CSOS, and community-led partners on broad-based thematic issues using a human rights-based approach (HRBA), social inclusion and gender mainstreaming, and citizen-led approaches in its programming.

ZAMSOF to strengthen democratic governance participation among the most marginalized groups towards sustainable development and quality service delivery, and lobbying for new activists, particularly youths, on issues strengthening social movement processes among various platforms through ZAMSOF's newly launched Initiative called ZAMSOF Youth Connect Initiative.

Envisage Projects and programs for 2024 include; organizational development capabilities, Humanitarian services preparedness, climate change, food sovereignty, citizen actions on debts, gender-based violence, Gender and Empowerment, sustainable fisheries, implementation of the Doha Plan of Action, Effective participation in the Third Conference on Least and Landlocked Development Countries (LLDC3), Annual SADC Peoples Summit to be held in Zimbabwe, Take part in the World Social Forum (WSF), offer regional, and international solidarity on emerging issues concerning the human and the environment.

## Acknowledgment of the Cooperating Partners and Partners in Development

### Funders for the Key Projects and Programs

**ECO Fish /European Union –through ActionAid Zambia**

**IBON International Africa**

**IBON International Global**

**Least Developed Countries (LDC Watch)**

**Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN)**

**Zimbabwe Coalition on Trade and Development (ZIMCODD)**

### Sponsors for the Eleventh Edition of the National Social Forum 2023

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**Sara Longwe – Zamsof Guardian**

**Save The Girl (STG)**

**Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD)**

**Zambia Nation Education and Coalition (ZANEC)**

**Zambia Social Forum contributions by membership**

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## Contact Details

**Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF)**

**Secretariat Office**

**Plot No 4225 Chilimbulu Road Chilenje Lusaka**

**Email: [zamsosf@zambia.cozm](mailto:zamsosf@zambia.cozm) / [zamsosf.forum@gmail.com](mailto:zamsosf.forum@gmail.com)**

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