

Thursday, Lusaka (10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024)



### **EU AMBASSADOR REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN ZAMBIA**

European Union Ambassador to Zambia and COMESA, Ms. Karolina Stasiac, has reiterated the European Union's commitment to promoting environmental justice in Zambia through their funded projects.

She stressed the importance of sustainable development, protecting communities and natural resources, and the EU's efforts to promote a circular economy, protect nature, and aim for zero pollution.

Ms. Stasiac mentioned the new directive requiring companies to address adverse environmental impacts both within and outside the EU, including in Zambia.

She said the directive complements existing regulations on business and human rights, such as the regulation of deforestation-free supply chains.

The Ambassador said this during the 2024 Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD) event organized by the Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) in Lusaka.

Ms. Stasiac reiterated the EU's commitment to ensuring economic growth is accompanied by safeguards to protect people's rights and the environment.

She emphasized the responsibilities of governments, the international community, and the private sector under the UN guiding principles on business and human rights.

The Ambassador called for laws, policies, and practices to prevent and address human rights abuses and ensure victims receive redress and compensation.

She also noted Zambia's celebration of 100 years of mining and the importance of developing the mining sector with social and environmental measures in place.

Ms. Stasiac highlighted the momentum in recognizing environmental justice issues and Zambia's efforts in developing a national action plan on business and human rights.

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