



New Year's Opening Statement

Dear ZIMCODD Members, Colleagues, Partners and Stakeholders,

Heartfelt greetings to you all as we step into 2025. The turn of the year calls for reflection, renewal, and re-commitment to our shared vision of a just, equitable, and sustainable Zimbabwe.

In 2024 we won some victories, but we also faced challenges. Together, we resiliently operated in a complex environment influenced by an assortment of cross-cutting socio-economic issues. Collectively, we championed transparency, accountability, and sustainable development. Our joint efforts moved the needle in policy advocacy, citizen engagement, and promoting fiscal justice.

Venturing into the future, 2025 denotes a significant milestone for our Coalition's work. This moment, 25 years ago, the persuasive vision of ZIMCODD was cast. Our 25th anniversary celebration, beckons us to reflect on the impact our collective action. There's also no better moment to reimagine, reconfigure and re-envision the futuristic ZIMCODD of 25 years and beyond. In 2025, ZIMCODD remains steadfast in its mission to champion the social and economic rights of all Zimbabweans. We recommit to deepening our community engagement and amplifying community voices. Not only holding public institutions accountable, but also intentionally empowering citizens and communities to do so. Our focus on debt justice, equitable resource distribution, and fostering a culture of accountability, in both public and private sectors, relentlessly abides.

Looking into region, I am prayerfully watching the developing situation in our neighbouring country, Mozambique. Reports assert that the post-election crisis has so far claimed 200 precious lives. As of December 2024, over 580,000 citizens were displaced by the conflict in Cabo Delgado province; women and girls are kidnapped and used as sex slaves; there is forced recruitment of underage boys into non-state militant groups, and a disruption of livelihoods means for hundreds of thousands of people. This grave situation cannot be ignored because of its security and economic impact on our country and region. Mozambique is a critical trade corridor, and this conflict inadvertently spurns a social welfare crisis arising from the imminent immigration of displaced people and refugees. Our Coalition remains steadfast in solidarity with the people of Mozambique.

In the face of shrinking resources, shifting and shrinking operating context, increasing poverty, and exacerbating climate change effects; it has become imperative, now more than ever, to ensure that Coalition members collaborate and build synergy. What unites us is greater than anything that can ever divide us. United, we will make 2025 a year of transformative change and progress.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to the vision and mission of ZIMCODD. Let us step into this new year with renewed determination and hope.

Wishing you all a prosperous and impactful 2025!

With hope and solidarity,

John P. Maketo

Executive Director

Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD)