

## **IMF Statement on Zambia**

January 21, 2016

In response to recent media reports, David Owen, Deputy Director, African Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), today issued the following statement:

"I recently visited Lusaka as part of our engagement with Zambia. During the visit, I met with government, Bank of Zambia, private sector and civil society organization (CSO) representatives. Reports in the media suggesting that I made comments – during the CSO meeting – about preconditions for an IMF program for Zambia and the performance of the country's economic team are false. At my meeting with CSO representatives, I was mainly interested in hearing their views and the discussion centered on how best to address the economic challenges that Zambia is facing.

"As we have said before, the IMF is committed to continuing its dialogue with the authorities on their policy responses to the current macroeconomic challenges facing the country. We look forward to further productive discussions with the Zambian authorities and other stakeholders in the period ahead."