

**Closing Statement by**

**H.E. Gilles Hervio**

**Ambassador / Head of Delegation of the European Union**

**to Zambia and Representative to COMESA**

**on behalf of Cooperating Partners**

**20<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**PRBS First Review of 2014**

**Intercontinental Hotel**

As we come to the end of the meeting, I would like to thank you all for the constructive and open discussions we have had this morning.

As I said in my opening statement, the main objective of this review was to understand why performance has declined so sharply in 2013 and identify some appropriate remedial actions as well as ways of best supporting you. We appreciate the information shared today and welcome the measures outlined.

However, given the significant concerns over the 2013 performance as well as the lack of evidence of progress from additional government sources, PRBS Cooperating Partners are currently not in a position to positively conclude our assessment of the underlying principles and to announce disbursements in 2014.

Having said that, the PRBS Group CPs appreciate the efforts and commitments undertaken from the Government. We remain open to conclude this assessment in the course of the year upon demonstration of tangible progress and we look forward to receiving further evidence of progress and commitment to reforms.