



CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (NAM S&T CENTRE)

RESOLUTION FOR DECLARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY DAY

.....

- **RECOGNIZING THE LOSS** of thousands of lives and billions of dollars in the form of property damage and service downtime every year due to lightning which has been reported in countless media reports and numerous scientific papers;
- **CONSIDERING THAT** recent studies from Asia, Africa and South America have shown that the level of lightning deaths, injuries and property losses in these continents remains unacceptably high;
- **NOTING THAT** there is an urgent need for widespread public education to promote lightning safety and protection in every country, especially in those with high lightning flash density and significant risk of lightning injury;
- **APPRECIATING THAT** the efforts of scientists and lightning awareness promotion activists in some countries have substantially reduced the number of deaths and losses in those countries;
- **RECALLING THE SEVERITY** of some incidents, for example, on 28th June 2011, 18 school pupils were killed and many others injured by lightning in Uganda while they were taking shelter inside their school. Similar incidents are frequently reported in many countries.
- **NOTING THAT** the Uganda incident of 28th June 2011 triggered the scientific community and activists to initiate lightning safety and injury prevention activities leading to extensive brainstorming resulting in organization of appropriate training courses and awareness campaigns in many countries;

An International Symposium on Strategic Interventions to Mitigate the Hazard of Lightning, jointly organized by the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), New Delhi, India, and African Centers for Lightning and Electromagnetics (ACLE) - Zambia, was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 11th to 13th August 2015, with the participation of high ranking professionals, scientists, engineers and practitioners from 17 countries including Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, India, Iraq, Malawi, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda, USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe, who reported and deliberated on various facets of lightning mitigation measures.

The delegates at this Symposium unanimously resolve to propose the declaration of the 28th June of each year as International Lightning Safety Day, and urge the concerned national and international authorities to take appropriate action in this regard.

Thus, adopted this day, the 13th of August 2015, at Lusaka, Zambia.

