



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT BY HON. PROFESSOR ARTHUR PETER  
MUTHARIKA, M.P.,  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
AND  
HEAD OF MALAWI DELEGATION

AT

THE FOURTH UN-LDC IV CONFERENCE

INSTANBUL, TURKEY

10th May, 2011

*Check against delivery*

**Mr. Chairman**  
**Excellencies**  
**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me join those who have spoken before me by expressing my profound gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey, the Government and the people of Turkey for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation from the time that we arrived in this beautiful country.

Let me also convey special thanks to His Excellency Cheick Sidi Diarra, the Secretary General of Istanbul Conference for the preparations that have been made for this conference.

**Mr. Chairman**

I would like to recall that the Brussels Programme of Action (BPOA) was the first ever comprehensive result oriented poverty reduction strategy tailored to the special needs of the LDCs. It has been a framework of partnership for LDCs and the Developed partners. This is a commendable initiative.

During the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPOA) in the previous decade (2001-2010), a number of countries registered successes, but also experienced some challenges. Malawi is one of the countries that registered the successes that included high GDP growth rates, improved food security situation and a reduction of people living in poverty. It is our hope that during the implementation of the successor programme, the Istanbul Programme of Action, more countries will register similar successes.

While Malawi, as well as many other Least Developed Countries, achieved progress over the last decade, some challenges were also faced. These included escalating fuel prices, climate change and impact of the global financial and economic crisis. These challenges greatly compromised the positive developments during the implementation of the BPOA. In view of this, it would be important that the next programme of action takes bold steps in addressing these challenges.

Least Developed Countries continue to face development bottlenecks such as low productive capacity, poor access to regional and international markets as well as climate change vulnerabilities and risks. Addressing these problems would go a long way in promoting development of LDCs. It is our hope that the Istanbul Programme of Action will take these issues on board. It is also our hope that the programme of action will be complemented by a sound implementation plan.

**Mr. Chairman**

While most of the countries have abundant natural resources, one of the key challenges to enable LDCs harness these resources to spur growth and development is the unavailability of financial resources. I am happy that the Istanbul Conference

will among other issues seek to secure commitment of the Development Partners to assist in ensuring access to adequate and stable public and private financing.

The LDCs are appealing for the Developed Countries to fulfill their pledges to ensure that the impacts of the global economic crisis are mitigated, and that the much needed financial resources are made available to poor countries. It is our hope that the conference will reiterate our appeal for the Gleneagles G8 Summit commitments to double official development assistance (ODA) to Africa. Among other benefits, this would help most of the African countries to graduate from the LDCs category.

**Mr. Chairman**

If we are to achieve the objectives of graduating many of the LDCs and to move the people out of poverty as well as achieve the Millennium Development Goals, then the Istanbul Programme of Action should include concrete policies and actions directed towards tackling the poverty, and generating employment.

It is well known that Africa has untapped potential that would make a difference in terms of trade and investment. I am aware that most of the LDCs have put in place attractive policies to promote international trade and investment. But, underlying factors for international fair and balanced trade regime need to be worked on. The Istanbul Programme of Action should address the impediments to the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round and to support the Aid for Trade Initiative. The programme must also address the supply-side constraints, such as transport bottlenecks, energy and related infrastructure constraints.

I would also like the conference to appeal to the Developed countries to urgently finance LDCs for the adaptation of the impacts of climate change, to integrate resilience to climate change into food security plans and to help the most vulnerable populations to develop increased climate adaptive capacities.

**Mr. Chairman**

As LDCs we need to own our national development strategies, and as we are launching the Istanbul Programme of Action, we should also be thinking of how this new programme of action will be translated into national action plans. I am pleased to inform this meeting that Malawi has gone far with the development of our own national development strategy which we call the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). Through the MGDS, Malawi will implement the IPOA at the national level. This will ensure full ownership of the current programme of action and ensure that national plans are in line with new initiatives.

In conclusion, I would like to wish Your Excellency, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen success, as we deliberate on issues concerning the development of LDCs. You can be assured that Malawi will be in the forefront in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

I thank you for your attention.