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STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI DELIVERED
BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, HON. DR.
EMMANUEL FABIANO, M.P.
AT INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE - GCM

Mr. President,
The Secretary General,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Malawi, Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, who has delegated me to represent him, I would like to congratulate His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the Government of Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this very important conference. At this point, allow me to express fraternal greetings and best wishes from our President Professor Mutharika on this important occasion. I would also like to thank the Government and the people of the Kingdom for the hospitality given to me and my delegation since we arrived in this beautiful City of Marrakech.

Mr President, Malawi supports the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM) which is a framework and

guiding tool that ensures political commitment, global governance and cooperation on international migration. In addition, the process of continued dialogue and partnership is a footprint to the global compact.

Mr President, managing movements of people across international borders cannot be achieved by individual countries because international migration involves at least two countries. In this case, partnership and cooperation becomes a primary requirement to handle migration issues. The facets of the Global Compact bring good governance and allow dialogue to promote international cooperation on migration and thus lessen the burden on vulnerable migrants.

Like many other countries represented at this conference, Malawi is a country of origin, transit, and destination of migrants. For instance, currently Malawi hosts more than 45,000 refugees.

Mr. President, Malawi recognizes and applauds the initiative by the African Union on the Protocol on Free Movement of Goods, Services and People. With this Protocol in place, it means Africa

is ahead of GCM, and Malawi is pleased to be a signatory of this important Protocol.

The Government of Malawi endorses the defining priorities that are outlined in the GCM's 23 objectives, covering different dimensions of migration that Malawi already adheres to through various policies and conventions. These include;

- i. 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;
- ii. OAU convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa;
- iii. 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- iv. 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda Goals
- v. 2016 New York Declaration on Refugees

Mr. President, it should be acknowledged that the usefulness of the GCM depends on willingness by Member States to develop and implement relevant policies at national level. I am, therefore, pleased to inform you that the Government of Malawi is already implementing the objectives of the GCM through the National Action Plan (NAP) on Mixed and Irregular Migration and the Initiative in Combating Trafficking in Persons. In view of this, the GCM has come at the right time because it

complements the NAP in key objectives such as Migration Data Collection and Management.

Mr. President, Malawi is in the process of developing a new and comprehensive migration and citizenship policy to provide the opportunity to address crosscutting issues that are pertinent to migration and development. These mostly include management of refugees, asylum-seekers and irregular migrants, labour migrants, migration data and statistics, Diaspora engagement, national funding and coordination framework for migration management.

Mr. President, Malawi's Republican Constitution (sections 20 and 31), the Employment Act (sections 5 and 6), the Labour Relations Act (section 7) and the Gender Equality Act provide for fair labour practices, equality of treatment and non-discrimination. These laws cover all employees in Malawi, including non-Malawian nationals.

As part of the implementation of these laws, Government developed the Malawi Decent Work Country Programme anchored on four pillars, namely: rights at work; employment; social protection; and social dialogue, and this includes migrants.

Furthermore, Malawi developed guidelines to be followed by local recruitment agencies engaged in labour export in order to check trafficking, exploitation and related risks to which Malawians working abroad may be exposed.

Mr. President, Malawi supports the adoption of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and shall harness the benefits of migration in the national and regional economic cooperation guided by the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.