



MALAWI

STATEMENT BY

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MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND
COMMITTEE OF THE 67TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman

Allow me at the outset to join the preceding speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Bureau on your election to lead the deliberations of the second committee during the 67th Session of the General Assembly. I am confident that under your able leadership, the work of the second committee will be concluded successfully. Let me also assure you of my delegations support and cooperation.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished Representatives of Algeria, Lao PDR, Benin and Cameroon on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Landlocked Developed Countries, Least Developed Countries and African group respectively.

Mr. Chairman

My delegation considers the agenda items before this Committee to be very critical for developing countries especially in achieving internationally agreed goals particularly the Millennium Development Goals. We, therefore, look forward to frank and open deliberations on all agenda items, particularly on Financing for Development, Globalization, Sustainable Development, Agriculture Development and Food Security, Groups of Countries in Special Situations and Information and Communication Technologies. We have great expectation that this Committee will advance these issues in the interest of both developed and developing countries with special emphasis on the Least Developed Countries.

Mr. Chairman

In this regard, I wish to briefly highlight a few points that are of particular importance to Malawi.

Malawi like many countries around the globe is facing financial and economic challenges emanating from the global financial crisis. To date, increasing energy prices and declining investments have exacerbated the existing challenges of trying to achieve sustainable development. We are, therefore, facing a challenge as we endeavor to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, we ask this Committee to give special attention to the needs of Africa including my own country Malawi.

As Least Developed Countries such as Malawi continue to remain vulnerable to the numerous challenges the world is facing, it is my delegation's hope that the Istanbul Programme of Action adopted in May, 2012, in Istanbul, Turkey will be implemented in its entirety. We sincerely hope that through the programme, Least developed Countries such as Malawi will benefit from duty free, quota free market access and supply side capacity building.

Mr. Chairman

For the past three years Malawi faced severe economic, political and social challenges. During the period 2011/12, Malawi started implementing the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II as an overarching medium term national development strategy aimed at addressing the challenges that the country was facing. In line with this strategy, the Government of Malawi has put in place an economic recovery programme aimed at restoring macro-economic stability. We hope that through these strategies, our country could be on course to achieve some of the MDGs targets by 2015. The Government will also continue to put in more efforts aimed at achieving other MDG goals such as Universal Primary Education, Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Improving Maternal Health, will be further pursued.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Malawi realizes that Malawi has great potential for development because of its natural resources. With the country's strong political will and an inclusive framework aimed at encouraging national dialogue on the economy, we are certain that we will achieve progress in the five priority areas of Energy, Tourism, Agriculture, Mining and Infrastructure Development. The Government of Malawi has therefore identified three specific projects within each priority sector and translated this into an implementation plan for the next two years. These projects range from completion of essential roads and rail lines, to setting up alternative energy sources, undertaking business climate reform to attract investment into agro-processing and mining. These will set the country on a path of fulfilling its full potential. In addition, two Presidential Initiatives; the Presidential Initiative on Maternal Health and Safe Motherhood; and the Presidential Initiative on Poverty and Hunger Reduction to fast-track the interventions needed to address the social needs of the disadvantaged groups especially women and youth were recently launched.

These priorities will be achieved through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). The Government will continue to promote strong institutions that encourage business growth and investments. We, therefore, support all efforts that promote Aid for Trade so that we can be able to compete effectively in the global economy. We also realize that innovative efforts aimed at promoting Financing for Development are critical in assisting developing countries achieve progress towards the MDGs.

Through investments in these areas, we hope to compliment efforts aimed at reducing poverty hence achieving MDG targets by 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

Malawi reiterates that Climate Change is serious global challenge affecting the social-economic growth of many developing countries. Least Developed Countries continue to experience the negative effects of climate change despite the fact that they contribute less to the problem.

Malawi like any other Least Developed Countries is neither spared from the adverse effects of climate change, which is causing prolonged dry spells, flooding, drought, and unpredictable rainfall patterns and increased temperatures. In recognition of these adverse effects of climate change, the Government of Malawi has accorded special attention to climate change in its national strategy. We hope that through normal rainfall patterns, the agricultural sector will grow by 4.7 percent compared to a growth of 2.0 percent in 2010. This growth would promote food security and create employment for the majority of the population.

My delegation welcomes the recent outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio, Brazil where international consensus emerged on important areas of sustainable development. We must now endeavor to implement what was agreed in Rio as well as in previous summits. Our focus must be to achieve sustainable development which ensures that we do not slacken off on progress so far achieved on some of the MDG targets.

We therefore urge the International Community to fulfill their agreements adopted in Cancun and Durban respectively. We look forward to the fruitful COP 18/CMP 8 deliberations to be held in Doha, Qatar towards the end of this year and further reiterate the importance of achieving a quality legal second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. Chairman

Malawi is also concerned about the continued suspension of the Doha Round of negotiations. We therefore urge the major trading countries to show some flexibility and political will to accomplish the negotiations in a manner which is favourable to the developing countries. We look forward to a fair and balanced international trading system and the removal by the developed countries of trade barriers in non-agricultural commodities and services in order to enhance access by developing countries to international trade.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, my delegation welcomes the inclusion of special events to the programme of work of this committee. It is our wish that these special events will be development-focused and structured in a manner that adds value to the deliberations of the committee. In the same breath, we expect, as usual that the selection of panelists and key speakers during these events will take into consideration regional dimensions to ensure diverse perspective and balance in the discussions.

I thank you for your attention.