



**STATEMENT (DRAFT)**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR PERKS LIGOYA**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE/AMBASSADOR OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE THIRD SESSION OF THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON AN  
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT  
UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE  
LAW OF THE SEA ON THE CONSERVATION AND  
SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL  
JURISDICTION**

**NEW YORK, USA**

**19<sup>th</sup> August, 2019**

- **Madam President;**
- **Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Madam President**

I would like to thank you and congratulate you on behalf of the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on successfully delivering a draft text of a future agreement on a new legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The content of your draft is a good reflection of the effort you made to ensure all views are captured. We believe your draft text will enable us to start text-based dialogues and discussions which is a very critical milestone in moving forward towards establishing an agreement in a less distant future.

**Madam President,**

Malawi, as the chair of the LDCs, recognizes that the conservation and sustainable management of the ocean is critical for our economies, livelihoods and most importantly the very survival of humankind. Malawi is not only an LDC but also a land-locked country. Some may wonder, how is the ocean so relevant to Malawi. Over 80% of the goods imported to LLDCs is transported by sea. We owe every other oxygen we inhale to the ocean. As you may recall, my own country Malawi was hit by Cyclone Idai that struck Zimbabwe, Mozambique and my own country, Malawi which left a trail of devastation to both infrastructure and the people. Therefore, a healthy ocean means thriving and resilient communities.

**Madam President,**

The highly interconnected nature of the ocean means destruction of habitats, ocean acidification, warming of waters, and overexploitation of resources anywhere will be impacting us all. It is for this fundamental reason that we believe parts of the ocean in areas

beyond national jurisdiction must be recognized as the common heritage of mankind.

**Madam President,**

The new instrument must ensure that current state of play where the high seas is utilized only by those who have both the financial and technical means are changed. Indeed, the new instrument must end governance gaps in the high seas, protect critical ecosystems and safeguard the livelihoods of millions of coastal and inland communities.

Capacities of LDCs and other developing countries must be enhanced so that they play an active role in the conservation and sustainable use of the high seas. It is the belief of my delegation that this should be enabled by ensuring: (1) a multilateral facilitation mechanism for the transfer of marine technology is established, and (2) both monetary and in-kind benefit sharing mechanism is developed.

Finally, **Madam President**, I would like to reiterate the commitment of my delegation and that of the group of LDCs to engage constructively throughout this process to ensure a successful outcome that is fair and equitable.

**Thank you for your attention.**