



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

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MINISTER OF HEALTH**

**DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION
AT
THE FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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NEW YORK

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
LILONGWE 3**

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Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

- Malawi aligns itself with the statements delivered by Cuba on behalf of the G77 and China; and Nepal on behalf of the LDCs group.
- The Government of Malawi considers this session as an opportunity to discuss pertinent issues that affect the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals. This session's theme, **'Population, education and sustainable development'** is aligned with Malawi's own development aspirations as espoused in the *Malawi 2063* vision, and specifically the Enabler on Human Capital Development.
- Indeed, education is key to a country's development. In particular, education of women and girls has the potential to reduce child marriages, unplanned pregnancies, and to improve their social standing.
- Malawi has a youthful and growing population with 51 per cent of the population under 18 years. As noted during the Transforming Education Summit last year, youth education in Malawi faces the challenges of equity, inclusion and

quality. These affect their participation in economic, political and social life, greatly hindering their development and, consequently, their contribution to sustainable economic development.

- The Government of Malawi has realized that with quality investments in the education system and in other sectors, the country can leverage its youthful population as a springboard for social and economic growth, capitalizing on the demographic dividend. To this effect, the Government, working together with partners, has increased its efforts to improve the quality of education across all levels.
- Some of the efforts include:-
 - I. Investment in early childhood education, especially in the first 1,000 days of life, which has profound impact on brain and cognitive development, including longer-term effects on learning, and skills gain. The country is implementing an equity-based early childhood development delivery system with the goal to achieve a target of 80% access to quality Early Childhood Education by 2030.
 - II. Development of national strategies such as open distance learning, e-learning and open secondary school digitalization strategy to improve access and retention of pupils in schools.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

- Human capital development in Malawi has been experiencing serious challenges due to external shocks. In 2020 COVID-19 negatively affected the education system. This was compounded by natural disasters such as Tropical Storm Ana in 2022, and Tropical Cyclone Freddy this year. As we speak, those displaced by Tropical Cyclone Freddy, which hit Malawi last month, are being kept in camps, some of which are school facilities, further disrupting learning.

Chairperson,

- In conclusion, Malawi recognises the need for coordinated efforts to respond to the country's population dynamics. For this reason, the Malawi Government has adopted and implemented successive National Population Policies since 1994, with the Department of Economic Planning and Development as the policy holder. The Department plays a central role in coordinating stakeholders, shaping population issues, and monitoring and advancing population policies. It is expected that this will accelerate the achievement of the ICPD agenda.

I THANK YOU.