



MALAWI GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY
HIS HONOUR, DR. SAULOS KLAUS CHILIMA, VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI AND
MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORMS

DURING SESSION ONE OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL
REVIEW MEETING (ARRM): MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE
ON LESSONS LEARNED AND BUILDING BACK BETTER

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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- **Fellow Honourable Ministers;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

This moment, this Dialogue presents a great opportunity for African LDC's and Haiti to assess progress made in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action. Amidst us is the COVID-19 pandemic whose impact has been catastrophic in all key sectors of our development. Despite that, we are optimistic that with the resilient recovery plans we have formulated, our economies will be “***built back better and stronger***” and deliver the much-needed socio-economic development to our citizens.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me at this moment share lessons and experiences from Malawi.

Malawi domesticated the Istanbul Programme of Action into the national development strategies to ensure that implementation of the Strategy is simplified by using national financing systems. With this, we have made tremendous progress in agricultural productivity, productive capacity, energy, transport infrastructure, and trade and investment.

Malawi increased agricultural productivity primarily through the provision of agricultural input subsidy. The major setback is the prevalence of climatic shocks including droughts and floods. For instance, Malawi was hit hard by

Cyclone Idai in 2019. To address these shocks, we are investing in climate smart agriculture.

In productive capacity, Malawi has focused on value addition interventions on key agricultural crops such as cassava, beans, oil seed products such as soya beans and pigeon peas, which we plan to start exporting globally.

In the energy sector, Malawi is geared to enhance further energy production with emphasis on clean renewable energy. We also plan to utilize our regional energy sources through connection to the Southern Africa Regional Power Pool. In addition, we seek to eliminate inefficiencies through reforms in the energy sector.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Malawi, let me take this opportunity to express appreciation to the **United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing Countries** (UNOHRLLS) in collaboration with the Rocky Mountain Institute for supporting the Sustainable Energy Investment Study. This study is guiding us to identify energy projects with an impact on socio-economic development of the country.

Being a land-locked country, Malawi is faced with high transport costs which make it difficult to fairly compete on the global market. With this in mind, Government, in coordination with our neighboring countries, continues to

invest in rail and road infrastructure in order to facilitate trade with the rest of the world.

In trade and investment, Malawi has made progress in improving trade transit time through the One-Stop-Border Post initiative thereby streamlining border procedures and facilitating trade with neighboring countries.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Malawi is hopeful that our future is bright. We are currently developing a Socio-Economic Recovery Plan whose main objective is to bring back the economy to the pre-COVID-19 growth path.

We are aware that recovery will not be easy considering the intertwining impact of COVID-19 in all our key sectors. I therefore, wish to encourage all of us not to give up but harness the zeal to push until the conditions of our economies are transformed. Undoubtedly, we are the right people to change the course of our nations' destiny.

I thank you for your attention.