



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

WELCOME REMARKS TO BE DELIVERED BY

**RIGHT HONOURABLE DR. SAULOS KLAUS CHILIMA, VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI AND MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORMS**

**DURING A VIRTUAL HIGH-LEVEL OPENING SESSION OF THE AFRICAN
REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING (ARRM) OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES (LDCs)**

22ND FEBRUARY, 2021

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
LILONGWE
February, 2021**

- **Your Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi;**
- **Your Excellency Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey;**
- **Your Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of State of Qatar and Host Country of the LDC 5 Conference;**
- **Your Excellency Ms Karina Gould, Minister of Development Cooperation of Canada;**
- **All Honourable Ministers;**
- **Your Excellency Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

1. I am pleased to welcome you all, to the African Regional Review Meeting of the African Least Developed Countries and Haiti. It would have been even more pleasing to meet you all physically here in Lilongwe. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has left us with no option but to meet virtually which is a demonstration of our resolve to forge ahead with the LDCs Agenda.
2. Prior to COVID-19, we were making steady progress in implementing our key priority areas. However, the pandemic has pummeled our already fragile economies in all our crucial sectors. In this regard, I wish to extend my condolences for the loss of life and solidarity to all who have been impacted by this virus.
3. During this Meeting, we are prepared to have tough and honest conversations about the structural challenges, vulnerabilities and emerging issues that we face in pursuing sustainable development and our desired future.

4. Our hope is to exchange and learn; gain insight and agree on concrete, targeted and effective cooperative actions and recommendations that will assist us to overcome structural challenges thereby accelerating sustainable development progress over the next decade.

5. We are fully aware, that the outcome of this meeting will have a lasting bearing on our linkages towards the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda as well as the Agenda 2063. May I, therefore, urge all Distinguished Delegates to discuss practical ways of **“building back better and stronger”** and deliver **“the future we want”** that **“leaves no one behind”**.

6. From the Warm Heart of Africa, accept my best wishes and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you for your attention