

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY PERKS LIGOYA, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AND CHAIR OF THE LDCs DURING THE LLDCS SIDE EVENT OF
THE 2021 FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

April 12, 2021

**The Under Secretary General of the UN Office of the High Representative
for LDCs, LLDCs and the SIDs;**

**H. E. Mr. Serdarov Muhammedgeldi, Minister of Finance and Economy of
Turkmenistan;**

**Ambassador Magzhan Llyassov PR of Kazakhstan and Chairperson of the
Group of LLDCs;**

Excellencies;

Distinguished delegates;

Chairperson,

- Let me begin my remarks by thanking you Chair, the Secretariat of the UN-OHRLS, as well as the Government of Turkmenistan for organizing this important side event in the margins of the 2021 Financing for Development Forum.
- The meeting accords us, the Landlocked Developing Countries and all relevant stakeholders, an opportunity to discuss ways and means on how we can best mobilize resources to address the challenges that the LLDCs face as we strive to achieve the objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action as well as the sustainable development goals, more particularly in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairperson,

- Various reports indicate that groups of countries in special situations including the LLDCs, LDCs as well as the SIDs continue to face a lot of challenges which impede them from attaining their sustainable development goals. Poverty, climate change, food insecurity, high unemployment rates and debts are some of such challenges.
- The 2020 Secretary General's progress report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 points out that the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action still falls short of achieving the targets set.
- The report highlights many challenges faced by the LLDCs. In terms of food security, 50 countries around the world that are experiencing food crisis 16 of them are from landlocked developing countries. Debt servicing is also one of challenges faced by the LLDCs. The report states that debt servicing as a percentage of exports of goods and services rose from 19.1 in 2014 to 27.8 in 2018.
- The report further points to the fact that the emergence and spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is having an unprecedented impact on the development prospects of landlocked developing countries and the implementation of the priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action as well as on LLDCs ability to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development.
- Looking at all these challenges, we conclude that there is need for increased and expedited resources support.
- The Financing for Development Forum is therefore a crucial platform for us to discuss challenges of the LLDCs and look for possible solutions to address them.
- It is pleasing to note that the Outcome Document of the 2021 FfD which is to be adopted at the end of the forum, has called for attention to the challenges faced by developing countries, particularly groups of countries

in special situations. This approach will ensure that the “Leave no one behind” principle of the Agenda 2030 is put into practice.

- In this regard, Malawi would like to join the call on the international financial institutions, the UN system and all our development partners to prioritize the needs of the LLDCs to help them recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Malawi also fully supports the five recommendations highlighted by you chair in your remarks. We believe they will help the LLDCs to achieve the objectives of the VPoA as well as the 2030 Agenda if implemented.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!