



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY
HONOURABLE EISENHOWER NDUWA MKAKA M.P.,**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF MALAWI,**

**DURING A VIRTUAL ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING
OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF LANDLOCKED
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LLDCs) ON THE SIDELINES
OF THE 75TH UNGA**

23RD SEPTEMBER, 2020

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Lilongwe 3**

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Allow me to first, express profound gratitude from the people and the Government of the Republic of Malawi to the **High Representative (to be confirmed)**; and to the current Chair of the LLDCs, Kazakhstan, for ably organizing and coordinating this meeting. This is a clear example of how we can collectively adapt to the tough conditions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic to pursue our common interests.

➤ **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I am pleased to be here having recently attended the “*Ministerial Meeting on Vienna Program of Action on LDCs*” on 28th July, 2020. This meeting is vital as it will enable us to increase the scope on how best we can collectively utilise the Vienna Programme of Action to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. Challenges stifling economic growth in LLDCs are strikingly similar. Lack of territorial access to the sea, isolation and remoteness from world markets which all lead to high transport and transit costs thereby negatively affecting the business environment of our economies. It is a fact that we are not the main culprits of environmental degradation, yet are the biggest victims of vulnerabilities arising from climate change, which continue imposing constraints on our overall socio-economic well-being. The onset of COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated border and transit measures impacting negatively on trade facilitation and increasing transit fees.

➤ **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The Vienna Program of Action provides us a great opportunity for implementing a holistic, internationally coordinated effort to counter challenges faced by LLDCs. There is need clear policies for implementing the Program's priority areas of: transit, infrastructure development, policy issues, international trade facilitation, regional integration, structural economic transformation and means of implementation. It is my sincere hope that we will craft a clear roadmap on how these issues can be incorporated in our national development policies.

➤ At a national level, Malawi is undertaking various initiatives, by engaging with our regional neighbours, and the international community on transit policy issues, and development of regional infrastructures in areas, such as transport, information and communication technology. Our interest is to develop adequate transit infrastructure network for our country to be land linked and become regionally and internationally connected.

➤ I conclude by reaffirming Malawi Government's full commitment to the ongoing implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in order to realise its priorities for action.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.