



**REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY**

**DR LAZARUS MCCARTHY CHAKWERA**

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN**

**DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)**

**AT THE UN DIALOGUE ON ENERGY**

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**Your Excellencies,  
Fellow Global Champions,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**As President of Malawi, I represent the only Global Champion from Least Developed Countries in this meeting. This means that as far as progress on SDG7's target of universal access to clean cooking by 2030 is concerned, we as a global community still have a long way to go.**

**As a global community, we are not on track with targets for clean cooking fuels. We are not on track with targets for clean cooking technologies. And with 2.8 billion people lacking access to clean cooking services as of 2019, we are certainly not on track with achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.**

**We still have too many like Kiness Yusoya, a mother of 3 here in Malawi, who live in conditions that force them to rely on burning firewood and charcoal to survive. We still have too many**

**cooking over open fires and rudimentary stoves despite knowing and seeing the environmental impact and forest degradation this causes around them. And with populations in LDCs growing faster than clean fuel adoption, we must pick up the pace considerably. Even with urbanization trends, for at least a decade, a couple of billion people worldwide will continue to rely on burning biomass for their cooking needs, and electricity alone won't fill this gap- and won't reach Kiness's house.**

**This is an urgent matter for all of us, and so we have made it an urgent matter for Malawi. We have chosen to promote cleaner biomass cookstove solutions through our Energy Compact, because these solutions save 2 tons of CO2 per household each year. We have chosen to disseminate cleaner cookstoves en mass and have so far reached our goal of 2 million by 2020. We have chosen to transition our population to clean cooking to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. I say that none of this was luck or an accident. It was a choice we made, and it is a choice we must keep making every day.**

**I only wish it was enough, but it isn't. Like a relay racing team, the advances made by a country like mine only count if the rest of the world chooses clean energy too. That is why I will be going into COP26 with a pledge to call on other nations to choose and transition to clean cooking by 2030. I pledge to call on other nations to make this a decade of Action for Energy for all. I pledge to call on other nations to provide access to clean cooking solutions NOW.**

**If we as a global community do not meet this challenge together, we will be undone by it altogether. The preservation of our natural resources depends on it. The protection of our forests depends on it. The health and livelihood of our people depend on it. The survival of our civilization depends on it. We cannot afford to fail.**