



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

DR LAZARUS MCCARTHY CHAKWERA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

AT THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

NEW YORK, USA

23RD SEPTEMBER 2021

- *Excellencies;*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen.*

It is a stain on all of us as a global community that we still lead societies in which people go to bed hungry. It is a stain on our collective dignity as human beings that we lead societies in which food is not guaranteed for all.

We have nuclear weapons systems powerful enough to annihilate ourselves, telecommunication systems vast enough to shout nonsense at each other across oceans, logistics systems wide enough to move harmful substances across the globe, yet we have left our food systems too weak and inefficient to feed ourselves. The global food crisis is man-made, forged by our own lopsided priorities, and it is we who must fix it.

For us in Malawi, fixing it means working on the poor road infrastructure that makes the transportation of food difficult, raises food prices, and reduces food quality.

Fixing it means addressing of post-harvest losses that expose households to food insecurity.

Fixing it means diversifying the Affordable Inputs Programme (AIP) and scaling up investments in integrated nutritious value chains.

Fixing it means investing in medium and large-scale farm mechanization nationwide.

Fixing it means promoting nutrient rich foods and frontline nutrition workers.

Fixing it means adopting technologies and innovations for value addition and food preservation, as well as investing in digitized and localized early warning systems.

Fixing it means constructing disaster preparedness infrastructure and reviewing disaster risk management laws.

Fixing it means pursuing a multi-sectoral approach in the transformation of food systems. In fact, during the dialogues various stakeholders pledged their technical and financial support towards this vision of transforming Malawi's food systems. For instance, the donor Committee on Agriculture and Food Security, the UN System, Academia, Malawi Bureau of Standards, and civil society organizations have pledged to support the implementations of the identified pathways.

The key enablers driving our transformation agenda in this regard are: Mindset change; effective governance systems and institutions; enhanced public sector performance; private sector dynamism; and environmental sustainability. With these drivers in place, we give ourselves 10 years to see a complete reversal of fortunes in our food systems. The key milestone is to raise our country's status to a lower middle-income economy by 2030.

In short, we as a nation are determined to remove food insecurity from the equation of poverty within a decade. In fact, those whose careers in Malawi depend on us remaining a country that begs for food should start looking for other jobs.

Thank you for listening.