



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

Statement

By

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Minister of Environment and Climate Change Management

At

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

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Mr. President

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

At the outset, allow me to join the previous speakers in congratulating the Government and the People of the Federal Republic of Brazil for the hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for this conference.

It is an honour for me to speak on behalf of the Government and the People of the Republic of Malawi at this important Conference. Mr. President, I convey to you and all Distinguished Delegates greetings from the people of Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa, and best wishes from our President- Her Excellency, Mrs. Joyce Banda.

Mr. President,

The Government and the People of Malawi are committed to pursuing the sustainable development agenda. Our commitment is demonstrated by the establishment of a stand-alone Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management. Our commitment is further demonstrated through Malawi's Vision 2020, and its medium term implementation strategy, the Malawi Growth and Development

Strategy. The medium term implementation strategy provides the framework for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. The key priorities in the strategy include agriculture and food security; environment and climate change management; energy, industrial development, mining and tourism; education, science and technology; and public health, sanitation and HIV and AIDS management. While the Government is committed to implementing these areas, its success will require technical and financial support from the development and cooperating partners.

Mr. President

Poverty is one of the greatest challenges facing humankind today, but its eradication is also a pre-requisite for sustainable development. Poverty contributes to serious environmental degradation which undermines economic growth. To eradicate poverty, there is need to enhance productivity and diversification; value addition; technology development and transfer; and access to markets. All these initiatives would be meaningless if the international community does not address the gaps in implementation of the Agenda 21 and a speedy conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

Mr. President,

A green economy concept is relatively new, and transition to this kind of economy can be challenging particularly to developing countries like Malawi. Transition to green economy must, therefore, be supported by a proper package of capacity building, technology transfer and financial assistance.

Malawi believes that an inclusive green economy is a means to achieve sustainable development at national and global levels. There should be deliberate efforts to promote long term equitable growth, green and decent jobs, resource efficiency and sustainable production and consumption, human health and well-being. Malawi has some case studies related to green economy that require up scaling.

Mr. President

Malawi recognizes the need to coordinate implementation of the sustainable development agenda at global, national and local levels. The institutional framework should, therefore, adequately provide for clear political leadership, proper coordination, stronger policy and science interface, effectiveness and efficiency in implementation, monitoring of progress, and must be transparent and inclusive of all major groups. In this regard, Mr. President, the

Rio+20 Conference should strongly consider upgrading the existing sustainable development institutions so that they have clear mandates for them to provide better services in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. I would, therefore, like to add my delegation's voice to supporting the fact that UNEP should remain in Nairobi including its transformation.

In conclusion, Mr. President, for Malawi, the Rio+20 Conference offers a unique opportunity to secure renewed political commitment by the Heads of State and Government gathered here for the wellbeing of humanity. Therefore, the international community needs to recognize the social, economic and environmental challenges facing the developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries. It is time we walk the talk, and we act with speed, dedication and honesty in our commitments to alleviate the plight of the poor in our countries. Lastly but not least, let me take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of the Government and the People of Malawi in advancing and pursuing the sustainable development agenda.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates.

I thank you for your attention.