



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

TALKING POINTS TO BE USED BY
HONOURABLE EISENHOWER NDUWA MKAKA, M.P.,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL SESSION ON
“RESTORING THE CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) PROGRESS IN AFRICAN
COUNTRIES, LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) AND
LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LLDCs)”

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
P.O Box 30135
Lilongwe 3

June, 2021

- **Your Excellency Ms. Pascale Baeriswy, Vice-President of the ECOSOC;**
- **Your Excellency Mr. Courtenay Rattray, UN High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and Small Island Developing States;**
- **Distinguished Panellists;**
- **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I commend the Bureau of ECOSOC for organizing this Session on Africa, LDCs and LLDCs.

The Session's theme reflects the one of the most critical concerns at this time as the global economy has experienced the worst recession in 90 years' time. The COVID-19 pandemic reinforces structural inequalities, gaps, systemic challenges and risks that our countries face towards realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the economic situation in LDCs and is reversing decades of development gains that we worked so hard to achieve. As conscious citizens of this planet, we cannot let this happen. We must all work together to reverse this

regressive trend, especially in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me to highlight the following points in today's debate:

First: Our efforts should focus on ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity by promoting green, resilient, and inclusive development. Our priority areas should include: quality health care; poverty eradication; nutrition and education; social safety nets; digital and other innovative technologies; sustainable and quality infrastructure; access to energy, including renewable resources; broader opportunities for women and girls; and finance for SMEs and micro-enterprises.

Second: We must end the pandemic and prepare for the future by driving an intensified international effort. We need immediate access to safe and effective vaccines for all peoples of the world to end the pandemic, especially as new variants are spreading rapidly in almost all parts of the world. For one is safe and until everyone is safe.

Third: LDCs need sustained, differentiated, and targeted financial and technical support for an adequate policy response with a view to addressing the pandemic and achieving the SDGs. Thus, the international community must embark on a smart and new generation of global partnerships, focusing on crisis response and promoting growth, to ensure that no country or person, irrespective of age, ethnicity or gender, is left behind.

Fourth: Many LDCs entered 2020 in a vulnerable position, with public and external debt already at elevated levels. Their debt vulnerabilities has further worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost half of the LDCs are now at a high risk of debt distress. While we commend the Debt Service Suspension Initiative by our key development partners, a more comprehensive debt relief architecture is urgently needed. We reiterate our call to the Secretary-General to constitute a “High-Level Panel of Experts” to analyse the debt situation and make concrete recommendations of how LDCs can overcome their dire situation.

Fifth: We call for urgent fulfillment of all international commitments by our development partners regarding the following:

- Official Development Assistance to LDCs;
- WTO Ministerial Decisions on LDCs;
- Transfer of technology to LDCs;
- Re-allocation of Special Drawing Rights towards LDCs; and
- Continued support towards graduating and graduated LDCs.

In closing, let me welcome you all to participate in the Fifth United Nations Conference on LDCs, which is scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, from 23rd to 27th January, 2022. We expect to adopt a more ambitious and forward looking outcome which will serve as a blue print for LDCs to “build back better” and accelerate our implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you all.