



MALAWI GOVERNMENT

**A STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY
RIGHT HONOURABLE SAULOS KLAUS CHILIMA,
VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF ECONOMIC
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR
REFORMS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI,
AT THE 2021 HIGH-LEVEL
MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
FORUM ON THE THEME:
*“NAVIGATING THE RISK LANDSCAPE THROUGH
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION”*
6TH MAY, 2021**

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

LILONGWE

MAY, 2021

- **Your Excellency Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General;**
 - **Excellencies; and**
 - **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**
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- It is my distinct honor to make these remarks on behalf of the Least Developed Countries on a topic that is not only relevant to our current context, but also the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

 - We are facing the highest risk due to our structural vulnerabilities. Economic losses, destruction of infrastructure and disruption of social services due to disasters that are continuously undermining our progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

- At the Africa Regional Review Meeting, which we successfully hosted in Lilongwe, in February, 2021, in preparation for the Fifth United Nations Conference on

LDCs (LDC 5), we highlighted various ways in which COVID-19 has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of LDCs.

- The need to build resilience to future crises, ranging from natural disasters to commodity price shocks was flagged throughout the Meeting. The need for LDCs to step up actions related to the adaptation and mitigation of climate change, and disaster risk preparedness was emphasized.
- Access to science, technology and innovation, and bridging the digital and technological divide, are crucial in addressing the challenges of COVID-19 and accelerating sustainable development in LDCs. Enhancing research and development capacity in LDCs would unlock innovative solutions in many areas from productive capacity building and enhanced productivity of agriculture to health and education. More focused development cooperation, aligned with LDC priorities could potentially strengthen integrated approaches in these areas, including in reducing exposure and enhancing response and adaptation to risks.

- LDCs are invariably affected by multiple shocks at the same time. In addition to COVID-19, many were affected by other devastating crises from tropical storms to locust invasions in 2020. As a result, it is estimated that the proportion of extreme poor in LDCs has exponentially increased. Furthermore, the multidimensional and cascading nature of the COVID-19 crisis has re-emphasized the urgency of financing for prevention and disaster risk reduction, as well as, for disaster preparedness and response.

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

- In as much as bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to LDCs increased slightly, this increase was smaller than expected, which means that there is no overall progress in meeting the ODA commitments by our development partners.
- In this regard, more ODA to LDCs that takes risk into account and is aligned with LDC priorities is needed in order to build resilient economies.

- We commend the ***Aid for Trade*** initiative and call for its enhancement to support LDCs' commodity exports. We welcome the use of blended finance, however, we take note that only 6 percent was channeled towards LDCs between 2012 and 2018 and is concentrated in a few countries, while social sectors are mostly excluded.

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

- We acknowledge that Governments must lead in taking a risk-informed approach to financing and investing for sustainable development. At the same time, we wish to highlight the need for enhanced partnership with our development partners, towards building back our vulnerable economies, better and stronger.
- Malawi - as Chair of the LDC Group - is looking forward to working with all partners towards enhancing the resilience of LDCs, which should be a cornerstone of our next Programme of Action which we expect to adopt at the

Fifth UN Conference for LDCs in Doha, Qatar, in January,
2022.

I thank you all for your attention