



MALAWI GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

**THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT, MALAWI**

JACOB MAZALALE, PhD

DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE

**OF FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

IN ADDIS ABABA

Your Excellencies, Distinguish delegates,

Let me begin by thanking UN DESA for convening this first preparatory meeting for Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting the meeting.

Malawi aligns itself with the statement made by Burundi on behalf of the Group of African states, the statement made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the group of landlocked countries, and the statement made by Uganda on behalf of the G77 and China. Therefore, I would like to add and compliment the view as follows:-

After 9 years of implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and with less than six years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, developing countries continue to face significant and rising financing gaps. The financing gap has been exacerbated by the high cost of borrowing driving countries into debt distress, natural disasters such

as cyclones and pandemics, and the macroeconomic instabilities caused by global conflicts.

It is, therefore, the view of this delegation that FfD4 should address the following priority areas: -

- **First, the debt burden.** There is an urgent need to tackle the rising risks of debt distress to create the much-needed fiscal space for development financing. FfD4 should consider debt restructuring, debt-to-development swaps and debt cancellation. Debt relief will ensure that countries can use domestically generated resources to fund development projects.
- **Second, the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).** These institutions should be capitalised to increase their footprint in financing development, coupled with reforms to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in decision-making and norm-setting. Furthermore, lending terms should be improved through, among other ways, ultra-long-term loans and systematic use of state-contingent clauses. The need to increase concession financing cannot be over-emphasized. FfD4 should

ensure that developing countries' voices and perspectives are heard and considered in all matters that affect them.

- **Third, building capacity for domestic resource mobilization.**

Developing countries need enhanced capacity to mobilize domestic resources and combat illicit financial flows. Governance bodies must be empowered to keep governments in check and ensure efficient utilization of resources.

- **Lastly, establishing a more inclusive approach to financing.**

There is an urgent need to establish a more inclusive approach to complement or go beyond GDP to inform concessional and non-concessional finance or technical cooperation. Therefore, we join other member countries in calling for the inclusion of vulnerability in the eligibility criteria for accessing development financing.

My delegation looks forward to continuous engagement with developing countries in the process leading up to the Conference in Spain.

THANK YOU