



THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT

BY THE

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SOCIAL WELFARE, HONOURABLE DR. PATRICIA KALIATI

PRESENTED AT

THE 6TH SESSION OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING
(ARRM)

ON

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Chairperson,

I am honored to speak on the topic 'Social and Human Development in the African LDCs: Reducing Inequality and Advancing Wellbeing and Opportunities'.

Chairperson,

A number of factors contribute to the high prevalence of poverty and inequality in the LDCs. As for the case Malawi these include:

1. Floods and droughts due to climate change resulting to low agricultural productivity, increased food prices and food insecurity;
2. High levels of gender based violence: 34 percent women are either physically or sexually abused and 42 percent

spent on goods and services related to GBV.

3. Civil strife and political instability such as conflicts between political parties leading to loss life, loss enabling environment for businesses, ;
4. Rapid urbanization create slam conditions with limited access to essential services such as water, sanitation, waste

3. Under-developed rural infrastructure

addressing aspects contributing to poverty and inequality in the African LDCs. These include:

1. Addressing rapid population growth and high fertility through provision of sexual and reproductive health services, promoting female education and women economic empowerment; for example the Malawi government is constructing more boarding secondary schools to increase female enrolment;
2. On addressing GBV- it is critical to implement prevention strategies to reduce costs of services supporting survivor and on engaging men as change agents and as perpetrator such as engaging men on ending all forms of gender based violence and harmful practices and awareness on available laws. Malawi Government has developed a strategy champions in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls at

work place, at home, in the community and in all spheres of life.

3. Addressing gender inequalities due to poor educational attainment, lack of infrastructure, limited access to information and communication technology, energy, and transport services

4. *Leveraging the food system, both on and off the farm, this includes by raising smallholder agricultural productivity, complementary public investment (in agricultural research and extension, irrigation, and rural infrastructure), inclusive value chain development and technological leapfrogging;*
5. *Mitigating fragility by having risk management solutions with roles for both the private and public sectors, and incentivizing the public and private actors to act before the shocks and conflict occur;*
6. *Addressing the poverty financing gap by having efficient, public financing focused on the poor. For instance, in line with the Social Protection for Sustainable Development (SP4SDGs) SDG Target 1.3, Malawi is implementing a number of micro finance projects and social protection programmes. For instance, the National Economic Empowerment Fund*

(NEEF) is empowering women and the youth to access entrepreneurship skills and finances for business ventures in rural and urban areas;

The social protection programmes target 20% of the population and has expanded the coverage of the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) from 28,000 households in 2012 to 293,000 households in 2021. This is aimed at improving health, nutrition and skills of the poorest thereby building their human capital for improved livelihoods.

Chairperson,

I am very confident that poverty and inequality in the LDCs can be dealt with if aspects contributing to both are addressed.