

GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI

Your Excellencies ,

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the dialogues have helped us to build a consensus on the current challenges that beset our food



- o Vulnerability to pests and diseases such as the Fall Armyworm (FAW) . Malawi registered an infestation rate of FAW that ranged between 20 and 45 percent in February 2021; and
- o Food losses are also compounded by socio-cultural factors , particularly during post-harvest ceremonies like local initiations, weddings and at times funerals . At such functions, people cook excessive amounts of food , and throw away leftovers without proper disposal .

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have also noted that household resilience to shocks is low, especially in the rural areas . Malawi prides itself in having freshwater lakes and rivers that converge in the lower Shire floodplains, located in the Southern Region of the country . However, with climate change, our pride has also become a challenge since the flood plains are now experiencing frequent floods and droughts. Overall, the extent of vulnerability in Malawi has been exacerbated by high levels of poverty, economic and gender inequalities , limited access to basic services and infrastructure as earlier indicated.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the challenges of hunger in Malawi are not mainly an issue of food availability but more of

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the preliminary diagnosis from the dialogues we have convened point towards the need to invest in research and innovation, develop market infrastructure and have vibrant agricultural and industrial policies within and across countries. As Malawi, our stronghold lies in developing a functional marketing system and building the capacity of our people, if we are to transform the food systems.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, reaching this far, let me thank the United Nations for championing these dialogues and all the stakeholders taking part in this global initiative. They say, "Rome was not built in a day". Therefore, I believe that the game-changing priorities and the new commitments that will come from this Pre-UN Food Systems Summit, as well as the UN Food Systems Summit later in September 2021, will kick-start and create a momentum to transform our food systems. I look forward to fruitful deliberations as we promote a global discourse