REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

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DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

AT THE UN DIALOGUE ON ENERGY

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Your Excellencies,

Fellow Global Champions,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of Malawi, I represent the only Global Champion from Least Developed Countries in this meeting. This means that as far as progress on SDG7's target of universal access to clean cooking by 2030 is concerned, we as a global community still have a long way to go.

As a global community, we are not on track with targets for clean cooking fuels. We are not on track with targets for clean cooking technologies. And with 2.8 billion people lacking access to clean

cooking over open fires and rudimentary stoves despite knowing and seeing the environmental impact and forest degradation this causes around them. And with populations in LDCs growing faster than clean fuel adoption, we must pick up the pace considerably. Even with urbanization trends, for at least a decade, a couple of billion people worldwide will continue to rely on burning biomass for their cooking needs, and electricity alone won't fill this gap- and won't reach Kiness's house.

This is an urgent matter for all of us, and so we have made it an urgent matter for Malawi. We have chosen to promote cleaner biomass cookstove solutions through our Energy Compact, because these solutions save 2 tons of CO_2 per household each year. We have chosen to disseminate cleaner cookstoves en mass and have so far reached our goal of 2 million by 2020. We have chosen to transition our population to clean cooking to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. I say that none of this was luck or an accident. It was a choice we made, and it is a choice we must keep making every day.

I only wish it was enough, but it isn't. Like a relay racing team, the advances made by a country like mine only count if the rest of the world chooses