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MALAWI GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT

BY

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(LEADER OF DELEGATION)

AT

THE 16th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

AT MOON PALACE, CANCUN, MEXICO

8th DECEMBER 2010

Madam President, Your Excellency Ms. Patricia Espinosa
The United Nations Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-Moon
The Executive Secretary of the Convention, Ms Christiana Figueres
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to add my voice to previous speakers in congratulating you as the President of the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the 6th Conference of the Parties also serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

Madam President, my delegation also wishes to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the people and the Government of Mexico for the hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful resort city of Cancun.

Madam President, my delegation would like to align itself with the statements made by Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Lesotho on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the African Group, and Least Developed Countries Group, respectively.

Madam President**,** Malawi, in the sub-Saharan Africa, is in the part of the world that is most vulnerable and yet least prepared to address adverse effects of Climate Change. According to the findings from the Second National Communication, Malawi's annual average equivalent emission for the period 1995 to 2000 is about 23,487 Gigatonnes. The greatest contribution to emissions arises from the Land Use Change and Forestry sector, followed by the Energy sector. This is largely attributed to poverty-related socio-economic pressures such as deforestation and conversion of prime forestry to agricultural uses to secure livelihoods. This total emission is insignificant at the global level, and yet we do suffer from the consequential adverse effects of climate change that include intense rainfall, floods, droughts, dry spells, cold spells, strong winds, thunderstorms, landslides, hailstorms, mudslides and heat waves, among others. The sectors mostly affected include: agriculture, infrastructural systems, energy, human health, fisheries, forestry, water, wildlife and gender sectors. The impacts are a threat to the country's

socio-economic development, and attainment of the goals in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy as well as the Millennium Development Goals. The former is a home-grown development strategy that is aimed at establishing climate resilient development to safeguard against effects of climate change and ensure sustainable development that includes food security.

Allow me, **Madam President,** to share the following remarks:

- The Government of Malawi through the able and wise leadership of His Excellency the State President Ngwazi Professor Bingu wa Mutharika has put climate change as one of the priorities within priorities for its socio-economic development as stipulated in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy. We have also set ambitions goals under the Green Belt Initiative that has been designed to safeguard against some negative effects of climate change. Several initiatives for climate change adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer are being promoted to ensure that our communities become climate resilient. This shows how our Government is committed to addressing issues of climate change in solidarity with the global efforts of addressing the devastating effects of climate change. In addition, my President, in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union, has advocated vigorously that Africa should be food-secure regardless of the impacts of climate change. This, however, cannot be achieved if Cancun fails to deliver a balanced and comprehensive outcome that ensures a secure future under climate change.

- Recently Malawi has completed its third Greenhouse Gases Inventory report as part of the Second National Communication to the Conference. In this Second National Communication, measures to contribute to the reduction of the GHGs have been proposed as well as measures for adaptation. To show our commitment, the Government is supporting from our national budget programmes that are meant to contribute to carbon sequestration and to the promotion of alternative sources of energy. Under these initiatives, Government is promoting afforestation and reforestation programmes by local communities and use of clean energy sources and renewable energy technologies. Also the Government together with our development partners has formulated a National Framework for Managing Climate Change

in the country. In this framework several programmes have been proposed to: promote and upscale adaptation and mitigation; strengthen weather forecasting capability; and undertake capacity building and research to contribute to the management of climate change.. Further efforts are being made to develop a National Climate Investment programme that will guide socio-economic development in the country. In this respect, we support establishment of a new climate fund under the COP.

Madam President, currently, as observed by most developing countries, the conditions for accessing funds for developing and implementing programmes under the CDM are not favourable. In view of this, Malawi is calling for a reform of the operation of the CDM for it to achieve the desired outcomes as defined in Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol in order to contribute to the ultimate objective of the Convention. These reforms should address issues of transparency, accountability and methodologies to be simplified for selecting and approving projects, geographic distribution of projects and capacity building.

Sufficient technical and financial assistance is needed to address the effects of climate change through adaptation, mitigation, capacity building, technology development and transfer to benefit our local communities that are currently most vulnerable and yet least prepared to cope with the effects of climate change. We need to up-scale the effort, scope and modalities of funding to effectively manage the efforts of climate change. We need to set ambitious targets and aim decisively to combat climate change.

Finally, **Madam President**, as we all know, the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties at Copenhagen in December last year did not achieve what developing countries anticipated. However, we still have a window of opportunity here in Cancun to achieve a better outcome for our peoples and there is no other way for us Parties to achieve the ultimate objective of the Climate Change Convention than to remain transparent, unified and democratic in the negotiations. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, Cancun will deliver a set of decisions that must provide building blocks for a balanced and comprehensive legally-binding outcome. This includes decisions leading to establishment of a climate change fund under the COP, institutional framework and financial mechanism for enhanced adaptation,

capacity building and technology transfer. Under the KP Track we must work hard to strengthen the Kyoto Protocol, achieve the second commitment period urgently to avoid creating a gap, set ambitious targets to close the gigatonne gap, establish REDD plus and set up an effective MRV system based on common but differentiated responsibilities. We need to balance funding between adaptation and mitigation targets in our global efforts to effectively combat climate change.

It is my hope **distinguished delegates** that at the end of this Conference, we should have balanced conclusions and outcomes that will rescue our dear peoples from the catastrophes that emanate from the adverse effects of climate change. Climate change is non-negotiable and we must take it seriously. Failure to reach a balanced outcome here in Cancun will undermine the credibility of the multilateral system for negotiation and the attainment of sustainable development goals in our vulnerable countries.

Madam President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.