Malawi National Statement Presented at the High-level Segment of the 22nd Conference of the Parties

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT BY

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AT

THE 22ND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

ON CLIMATE CHANGE

MARRAKESH, MOROCCO, 17TH NOVEMBER 2016

- **COP. 22/CMP.12/CMA1 President, Your Excellency Minister Salaheddine Mezouar,**
- **The Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, Ms. Patricia Espanosa,**
- **Your Excellencies, Ministers and Heads of Delegations,**
- **Distinguished Delegates,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On behalf of the Government and the people of Malawi, I wish to congratulate Your Excellency Minister Salaheddine Mezouar, on your election as President of the 22nd Conference of Parties, the 12th Conference of Parties also serving as Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and the 1st Conference of the Meeting under the Paris Agreement. I wish you unlimited success and outstanding achievements.

Mr. President, Malawi would like to concur and associate itself with the statements made by the Chairs of the Group of 77 and China, Least Developed Countries, as well as the African Group. Our leaders of these groups have made it clear, as is Malawi, that the world is justifiably waiting for our decisions with a degree of impatience, on the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the effective implementation of all elements in the Paris Agreement, which we adopted in Paris in December 2015. We all applauded the momentous adoption of the historic Paris Agreement on that beautiful and historical evening. It is now time for action.

In this regard, Malawi looks forward with great anticipation, to this Conference adopting decisions, in particular on financing for adaptation, mitigation, capacity building, technology transfer, loss and damage and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions.

The horrific impacts of climate change are continuously and adversely affecting the poorest and most vulnerable. People are dying. People are displaced. Livelihoods are threatened and disrupted. Generation and provision of energy is disrupted. Agricultural production is hampered. There is resurgence of human and agricultural pests and diseases affecting our country and other parts of the world as well. Countries are losing their long and hard-earned infrastructure. Economies are being pushed back due to these impacts of climate change.

Malawi, which has been ranked the 3rd most vulnerable country to climate risk, is a country bearing the brunt of the adverse impact of climate change and yet we have not contributed to the cause of the challenge. This year, we experienced severe drought to the extent that the State President of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, declared a state of disaster over the country on 12th April, 2016. In 2015, we experienced unprecedented devastating floods in living memory. These

floods affected 1.1 million people, displaced 230,000 people, killed 106 people. The floods also caused widespread damage to crops, livestock, homes, as well as roads and bridges. These effects are negatively affecting Malawi's economic growth. The direct cost of droughts and floods is about 1.7% of Malawi's GDP every year. In 2015, the GDP growth was revised downwards from a projected 5.1% to 3.1% on account of floods.

In this regard, Malawi needs support in form of finance for adaptation, transfer of appropriate technology, and capacity building so that we are able to implement interventions that would enhance the resilience of our productive sectors and ecosystems that are negatively affected by these extreme climate events. We also need financial support to deal with losses and damages that occur as a result of these negative climate change impacts. This support is very key to Malawi to safeguard the economic gains that have been achieved this far.

Mr President, the COP-22, here in Marrakesh, therefore requires us to adopt decisions that will rescue Malawi's vulnerable populations and to enhance ecosystem services for them to be able to sustain their livelihoods, now and in future, through the post-2020 period. We are concerned that the discussions on agriculture agenda item did not conclude. As you may know, agriculture is the main stay of Malawi

economy and suffers worst effects of climate change in our country. We hope to build on discussions that have taken place here on issues related to agriculture and look forward to an agreed decision on this item next year.

Mr. President, Malawi welcomes the decision to continue the Lima work program on gender. We believe that efforts to advance gender balance and gender responsive climate policies need to be accelerated considering that evidence has shown that climate change has differential impacts on men and women. We look forward to implementing gender responsive climate policies and actions to ensure both men and women participate effectively in the fight against climate change.

Mr. President, Malawi sees a great opportunity for political and moral leadership, and an increasingly urgent need for action in the face of these escalating threats to humankind. Developed country Parties must take the lead and show their commitment to enhancing implementation of the Convention that we all signed two decades ago.

Mr President, Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you all for listening.