



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

DR LAZARUS MCCARTHY CHAKWERA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

**AT THE SECOND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
MOMENT OF THE DECADE OF ACTION**

NEW YORK, USA

20TH SEPTEMBER 2021

- ***Your Excellency, Mr. Abdulla Shahid – President of the 76th Session of the General Assembly;***
- ***Your Excellency, Mr. António Guterres,– UN Secretary General;***
- ***Excellencies Heads of State and Government;***
- ***Distinguished Guests;***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen.***

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Decade of Action can only be achieved through collaboration. Nothing has made this fact more self-evident than Covid-19, which has rolled back years of progress on SDGs and demands collective action towards recovery.

For Malawi, the SDGs most adversely affected by this pandemic or lagging are 1, 5, 7, and 8. For this reason, as a government, we have developed a 10-year Implementation Plan to get back on track with these and all SDGs by 2030.

Central to this is addressing extreme poverty towards SDG 1, by continuing to protect the most vulnerable households through our Social Cash

Transfer Programme (SCTP), which is already helping over 290,000 households and will benefit from improved targeting solutions like Novissi.

Ending the dehumanizing levels of poverty in our country is more than a goal for us. It is a matter of urgency. That is why our implementation plan includes initiatives to fast track progress on SDGs that advance our march against poverty. One key example is SDG 5 to *achieve Gender Equality and Women Empowerment*, because a society that disempowers women keeps millions poor.

I am confident that this level of focus will only expedite the great progress we are making on SDGs 2, 3, 4, 9, and 13. On SDG 2, for example, which aims to *end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*, government initiatives like the

Affordable Inputs Programme (AIP) have increased food production by 21 percent, removing hunger from the poverty equation.

On SDG 9, which aims to *build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation*, multiple road infrastructure projects are in progress. The proportion of manufacturing in our GDP has also gone up by 3%, no doubt spurred by stable energy supply, and investments in telecommunications that have raised the uptake of 4G mobile from 15.6 percent in 2016 to 65 percent in 2020.

The biggest lesson from all of this is that SDGs complement each other, and so we must implement interventions that have multiplier effects on the attainment of all SDGs. This, in

**turn, demands collaboration, collaboration,
collaboration.**

I thank you for listening.