



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. LAZARUS MCCARTHY CHAKWERA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

ON DAY 2 OF THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

PLENARY:

**“MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW”**

NEW YORK, USA

22ND SEPTEMBER 2024

- **Your Excellency, Mr. Philémon Yang, President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,**
- **Your Excellency, Mr. Antonio *Guterres*, Secretary General of the United Nations,**
- **Excellences, Heads of State and Government,**
- **Youth Representatives,**
- **Distinguished Delegates.**

This is an historic gathering, for rarely do we make time to reflect on the tomorrow we are creating by our choices today, and rarely to we focus on creating multilateral solutions for problems that haven't occurred yet.

As things stand, we are not likely to meet the targets we set for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), because we seem more interested in moving with speed in destroying the future than we are in replenishing. So now, we must reflect on the extra gear we need to engage between now and 2030 to sustain the hope of young people all over the world that the old men and women in this Assembly have what it takes to build solutions for a future that is not ours to inherit. This Summit of the Future is not about us, but about the next

generation and their children, and we must make this pact of the future without rigging it with the prejudices of yesterday and the conflicts of today.

Mr. President,

Let me be blunt. Sustainable development is untenable without sustainable financing. As such, I call for urgency in remodeling development financing. I call for financing facilities that are more robust, inclusive, and humane. I call for financing that will catalyze global development in developing countries, because the underdevelopment of LDCs is a drain on the potential of the Global South and Global North alike. I call for financing that is affordable and targeted towards sustainable development sectors.

What this means is that we must shift from the mere provision of aid to the cultivation of self-sufficiency through robust private sector engagement. We must nurture the entrepreneurial spirit of young people by empowering them with local industries. We must reconfigure multilateral institutions to create a new architecture of global finance, one that reduces the debt burden of developing countries.

Mr. President,

I am deeply concerned that many conflicts around the world not only remain unresolved, but are actively being stoked towards escalation, even here at this 79th Assembly. I am sure that no one in this room still lives under the naïve illusion that we live in a world where any war can be won, for that world does not exist anymore. We are all losing from the bleeding taking place from the conflicts we are enabling and perpetuating around the world, and we must return to a rules-based approach that seeks peaceful resolutions to disputes, for it is evident that the current multilateral system has proven significantly inadequate in resolving conflicts.

Mr. President,

We recognize the global utility of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in terms of improving productivity and decision-making processes. However, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are faced with significant challenges in coping with this unprecedented technological advancement. It is, therefore, imperative that the global world makes deliberate efforts to improve the capacity of LDCs to reduce the digital divide. Malawi commends the establishment of a UN Technology

Bank for LDCs and calls for increased funding to enable it to operate at full capacity and to establish physical presence of the Technology Bank in our countries. By strengthening the technological capabilities of LDCs, we will ensure that no one is left behind in the digital age.

Mr. President,

In Malawi, and invariably in the rest of Africa, the youth are not just our future but they are our present as well. We, therefore, must exploit this demographic dividend by developing technical skills and harnessing the enormous potential of the youth in order for us to achieve the fourth Industrial Revolution. This is a priority for Malawi. As such, we urge the entire international community to build a resilient and prosperous future. By harnessing this demographic dividend, we will be able to address current needs while laying the foundation for sustainable opportunities that will benefit future generations.

Mr. President,

Malawi reiterates her call for comprehensive UN reforms in order to create a UN that is fit for the future through fair representation and enhanced capacity to deal with complicated global challenges, while promoting sustainable

development. We support the Secretary General's recent calls for Africa to have a permanent seat on the Security Council and reiterate that Malawi's position aligns with the Ezulwini Consensus, which reflects the stance of the African Union. We urge that any upcoming reforms should align with this Consensus. Furthermore, UN reforms should be robust and progressive, emphasizing the strengthening of UN efforts at the national level. We call for the UN to allocate sufficient financial and human resources to the Offices of the Resident Coordinators, empowering them to align the in-country UN agencies with these reforms and effectively implement their respective mandates.

Additionally, reforming the global financial architecture is crucial for creating a sustainable future amidst rising debt levels. Immediate liquidity support should prioritize sustainable growth projects, particularly those that foster Public-Private Partnerships. Developing countries must be facilitated to access rapid financing aimed at high growth sectors. Furthermore, debt relief should be linked to climate financing, specifically for **loss and damage mitigation** and in the process building more resilient economies to climate shocks.

Mr. President,

The future we build depends on our collective efforts. Malawi stands ready to collaborate with the international community to translate the Pact of the Future into concrete action. Let us join hands, leverage our diverse strengths, and bequeath a legacy of a sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous future for generations to come. We urge all member states to turn the tide toward a brighter and more just world.

I Thank You All