

**MALAWI SUBMISSION ON ISSUES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE FOR  
CONSIDERATION BY SBSTA AT ITS 36<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

This submission is made pursuant to paragraphs 75 and 76 of COP17 LCA Outcome.

Malawi welcomes and appreciates the efforts that were made by the Conference of Parties to adopt a decision on agriculture. Pursuant to Decision 1/CP.17 (Paragraph 76) which invited Parties and accredited observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 5 March 2012, views on the issues related to agriculture under the SBSTA with the aim of exchanging views and CoP adopting a decision on the matter at its 18<sup>th</sup> session, Malawi makes this submission for consideration by the SBSTA.

Agriculture is the most important sector of the Malawi economy. It employs about 80 per cent of the total workforce, contributes over 80 per cent to foreign exchange earnings, accounts for 39 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and contributes significantly to national and household food security. The agricultural sector is mainly dominated by smallholder farmers who have been adversely affected by impacts of climate change and weather variability. The smallholders farmers mainly cultivate food crops such as maize (the main starchy staple), cassava, rice, legumes and sweet potatoes to meet subsistence requirements. Smallholder farmers cultivate small and fragmented land holdings under customary land tenure with yields lower than in the estate sector.

For the past couple of decades, Malawi has been adversely affected by prolonged dry spells, shorter rainy seasons, late onset and early cessation of rains, droughts and floods. These have increased in terms of frequency and intensity. As a result, there is reduced agricultural productivity, food security and loss of livelihoods. In this regard, Malawi Government has put climate change, natural resources and environmental management as a priority within priorities in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS II 2012 - 2016), which is the over – arching development strategy. In addition Malawi has prepared the National Adaptation Programmes of Action, which has focus on agriculture as the key sector to address the challenges and vulnerabilities. Furthermore, the Government of Malawi invested into the Green Belt Initiative (GBI) that seeks to transform Malawi from predominantly being a consuming and importing country to a producing and exporting country through irrigation.

Malawi aligns herself with the African Group, and the Least Developed Countries that, agriculture encompasses, but not limited to farming, harvesting, processing and related products and activities from crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture.

**In cognisant of the above issues, Malawi requests SBSTA to establish a work programme that will consider the following:**

- 1 Compilation and assessment of the present state of scientific knowledge and projected impacts of climate change on agriculture and related ecosystems under different scenarios, in order to identify gaps and needs for implementing effective adaptation strategies.
- 2 Identification of, diffusion and transfer of appropriate practices and technologies that are easily accessible and utilized by smallholder farmers in Malawi.
- 3 Promote and facilitate the strengthening of National Institutions and policy frameworks in the development and implementation of education and public awareness programs on climate change and its effect on agriculture.
- 4 Compilation of data and information related to agriculture from national communications, needs assessments and other relevant reports in order to enhance identification and implementation of adaptation strategies.
- 5 Identification and application of tools, methods and models in order to develop measurement and guidelines for carbon sequestration, climate forecasting, and upscale the technologies for increased agricultural productivity.