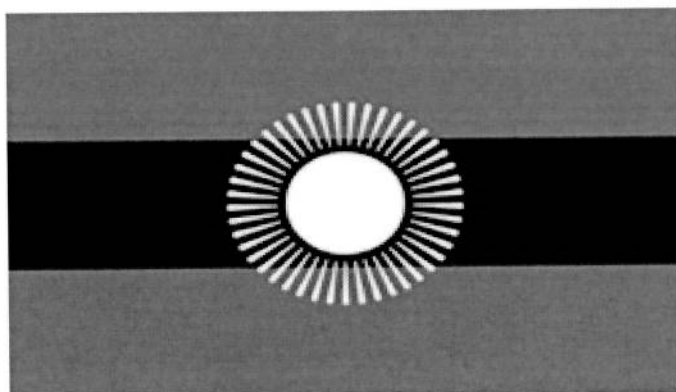


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MALAWI GOVERNMENT



**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANTHONY LIVUZA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENT**

**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI
AT
THE 17th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE (UNFCCC) AT DURBAN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION CENTRE, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

8th DECEMBER 2011

Madam President, Your Excellency, Ms. Maite Nkoane-Mashabane

Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, Ms. Christiana Figueres

Your Excellencies Ministers and Heads of Delegations

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government and people of Malawi, I wish to congratulate you as President of this conference. You carry a heavy responsibility but we have faith and confidence that under your leadership, Durban will shine as the city that saved the world.

Madam President, South Africa has a strong tradition of caring. The warm hospitality that our delegation has enjoyed in Durban is consistent with that tradition. We are indebted to all South Africans for this warmth of heart.

Madam President, many delegations have outlined with admirable clarity, the perils of postponing action on the key issues that confront us here in Durban. They have, with deep conviction, made clear that the world is waiting for our decisions, in particular on the Green Climate Fund, the Kyoto Protocol, Mitigation and Adaptation. If our collective will, collaboration and unity lead us to a deal, we will signal to a pessimistic world that we cherish our children's future, that strong global action can benefit us all who inhabit the planet and exploit its finite resources.

Malawi is optimistic that Durban will fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund, with proper balance between funding for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building. Here in Durban, we must secure from parties, the second commitment period on the Kyoto Protocol, strengthen REDD plus and set up an effective monitoring, reporting and verification [MRV] system, based on common but differentiated responsibilities.

These are the choices that will help Malawi, one of the most vulnerable and yet least prepared countries to address the challenges of Climate Change. For many years now, climate change has routinely subjected the 14 million Malawians to intense rainfall, floods, droughts, and dry spells, negatively affecting agriculture, infrastructure, human and animal health, fisheries, forestry, and water.

Having elevated climate change to high priority status in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, Malawi needs global partnerships to scale up its mitigation and national adaptation measures as outlined in the National Framework for Managing Climate Change and the National Climate Change Capacity Building and Investment Plan. The Government is supporting programmes that contribute to carbon sequestration, and promote clean, alternative sources of energy. It also supports afforestation and reforestation programmes by local communities. But we can only do so much as a country. It is because we want to move forward on these initiatives that we demand action on key instruments of progress such as the Green Climate Fund.

Madam President, we have a window of opportunity here in Durban to achieve a better outcome for our people. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, Durban will deliver a set of positive decisions to anchor a balanced and comprehensive, legally-binding outcome.

Together, with effort and courage, with purpose and direction, we must rescue our peoples from certain destruction caused by climate change. Failure to reach a balanced outcome will undermine the credibility and integrity of the multilateral negotiation system. It will also compromise the attainment of sustainable development goals in our vulnerable countries.

We are not praying for an easy solution. On the contrary, we see an opportunity in the difficult negotiations that we clearly have before us, and we do so in the knowledge that we are the only people standing between progress and failure. We know what must be done. Let us therefore do it, and leave the world a much better place than we found it.

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