



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT BY

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AT

**THE 18th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNITED
NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AT
QATAR NATIONAL CONVENTION
CENTRE, DOHA, QATAR**

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COP18/CMP8 President, Your Excellency, Mr. Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah,

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 on your election as President of this conference.

Mr. President, I would like to concur with the statement made by the Chairs of the Group of 77 and China, Least Developed Countries as well as the African Group. The delegations have outlined with clarity, the perils of postponing action on the key issues that confront us here in Doha. They have, with deep conviction, made it clear that the world is waiting for our decisions, in particular on the issues surrounding the adoption of the Second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol including the length of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, use of market mechanisms; successful closure of Adhoc working group on long-term cooperative action, Green Climate Fund, and clarity on sources, and scale of finance from 2013 at the end of the fast start finance, which is just barely three weeks from now.

Mr. President, the adoption of a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is an essential step forward. As such we encourage all developed countries to join and adopt ambitious targets in emission reductions as well as pledged amounts in new and additional climate change finances. Developed country Parties that are not willing to join the second commitment period must equally take comparative emission cuts under the Convention.

Mr. President, in Malawi, intensive rain and flooding have challenged communities, damaged infrastructure and continue to threaten many livelihoods and loss of life. Furthermore, climate change has routinely subjected the 14 million Malawians to other impacts that negatively affect agriculture, human and animal health, fisheries, forestry, water, and wildlife resources.

In addition to extreme rain and floods the country also experiences severe droughts that continue to threaten food security and limited availability and access to water resources. In my mind right now, I see a picture of a vulnerable poor African woman with a young baby on her back trying to fend for her family's needs. She needs to fetch firewood, water and other livelihood resources that have become scarce and unattainable due to climate change impacts. For her and the rest of her family, life is a continuous struggle and hopelessness. However, the COP-18 here in Doha provides us an opportunity to enable many people like this woman to adapt adequately to the adverse impacts of climate

change. We therefore need to make concrete decisions that will help such people to meet their livelihoods now and in future.

Mr. President, as I speak to you now, one of our precious lake that supports many livelihoods is under the threat of drying due to impacts of climate change. The communities depending on this Lake Chilwa are currently being subjected to unprecedented risks and shocks for which they are not prepared to cope with.

Mr. President, we see a great and increasing need for political and moral leadership and action in the face of these escalating threats of climate change. The levels of ambitions for both emission reductions and pledges for climate change finances are too low to meet the desired goal of the Convention. All the vulnerable people need immediate cure through adaptation and other related efforts. The current funding situation is analogous to a patient who actually needs curative medicine but is only given pain killers, instead. We are simply prolonging the pain and postponing the eventual death of this patient. Worse still, creating a gap in climate funding is like cutting the lifeline of an already critically ill patient who is on life supporting machine facing imminent death.

Mr. President, I therefore call on all Annex 1 Parties to take advantage of the opportunities provided by COP 18 to raise their level of ambition in order to avoid catastrophic consequences of climate change. Malawi is optimistic that here in Doha, we have the opportunity to agree on a

comprehensive, fair and ambitious climate deal by 2015. We need to fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund; agree on decisions that will properly balance funding for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building. Here in Doha, we must strengthen REDD plus and set up an effective monitoring, reporting and verification [MRV] system based on common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

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. Having elevated climate change to high priority status in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, and creation of a dedicated ministry on climate change, Malawi needs global partnerships to scale up its national mitigation and adaptation measures as outlined in the National Framework for Managing Climate Change and the National Climate Change Investment Plan. These initiatives require technical and financial support for the actions to be realized to the benefit of the vulnerable communities. The Government is supporting programmes that contribute to carbon sequestration, and promote clean, alternative sources of energy. We are also developing a national climate change policy that will guide climate change work in the country. But we can only do so much as a country; there is therefore a need for a unified approach for us to achieve a common global goal.

Mr. President, key themes from the Bali Action Plan such as finance, adaptation, and loss and damage, must continue to have a central role in the talks to develop a new agreement. While a new agreement takes shape in the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action track, we believe that Parties must continue to take concrete steps to increase international climate funding and to address adaptation needs, and commitments that must be included in the outcomes of COP18.

Mr. President, we have a window of opportunity here in Doha to achieve a better outcome for our people. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, Doha will deliver a set of positive decisions that will anchor a balanced and comprehensive roadmap to take us to the year 2020 when we shall adopt a legally-binding outcome for all of us, taking into account the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

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