



**REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**DRAFT STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY DR. LAZARUS McCARTHY  
CHAKWERA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
MALAWI AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE LEAST  
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)  
DURING THE SIXTH FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT  
FORUM**

**12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021**

- **Your Excellency Munir Akram, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);**
- **Your Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations;**
- **Your Excellencies;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am greatly honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and wish to align these remarks with those made by Guinea on behalf of the G-77 and China. We commend the Economic and Social Council for facilitating this dialogue on financing the recovery from the Covid – 19 Pandemic.

We are grateful to the World Health Organisation for its leadership in fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic. We call for vaccine access, adequate and predictable funding for the COVAX Facility, to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines go beyond the current provision of 20 percent.

The LDCs supports a request made by India and South Africa for the World Trade Organisation to temporarily suspend the application of Trade- Related Aspects of

Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), in order to increase access of COVID-19 vaccines in our countries.

While commending the World Bank for the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), we urge the expansion of the length and breadth of these initiatives.

In this regard, the LDCs, call for the following priority options:

**First:** Full debt cancellation of all bilateral, multilateral, and commercial debts owed by LDCs and a debt standstill with immediate effect and reallocation of Special Drawing Rights towards the LDCs;

**Second:** The LDCs, require an enhanced international development cooperation framework to strengthen national capacities and put in place mechanisms for risk reduction and prevention;

**Third:** Development cooperation partners for LDCs should align their strategies and operations with the 2030 Agenda;

**Fourth:** Donor countries should fulfill their Official Development Assistance commitments as stipulated in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

**Fifth:** Developed countries should scale up climate finance flows, as per their commitment of US\$100 billion per year;

**Sixth:** Innovative sources of financing, including blended finance, should be tailored to LDCs priorities; and

**Seventh:** New financial instruments including digital financing platforms, should be instituted.

In closing, the LDCs remain committed to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and look forward to your active participation in the upcoming Fifth UN Conference for LDCs which is scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, in January 2022.

**I thank you for your attention.**