



Government of the Republic of Malawi

Intervention by Hon. Nancy Tembo, M.P., Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources of the Republic of Malawi during the second part of Leadership Dialogue during the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5) held on 23rd February 2021

Mr. President,
Honourable Ministers,
Dear Colleagues,

Let me first of all thank you and congratulate you Mr. President for a well organised virtual part of UNEA 5. Given the unprecedented times occasioned by covid-19 in which we live in, such a gathering as we have had since yesterday, is a clear manifestation of our commitment to citing for nature to ensure achievement of SDGs. Let me also congratulate fellow ministers in applauding our decision to approve the medium-term strategy (2022-2025) for UNEP which aims to deal with three planetary crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution occasioned by chemicals and waste; and also approving the programme of work and budget for biennium 2021-2022

Mr. President,

The covid-19 pandemic is primarily a health crisis but one which has arisen due to our relation with nature since a healthy environment leads to a health wellbeing and vice versa. As such, it is our duty as Ministers to ensure that the mankind actions do not degrade the environment because it supports us.

Therefore, first and foremost, as leaders our role and action in building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world is to have a political will towards management of the environment through:

- Adherence to the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), ensuring the availability of finances, technology and technical know-how;
- At a national level, and as a national commitment, provision of a meaningful and adequate budgetary allocation for the sector.

- Further, as part of national efforts, ensuring that the technocrats are fully supported and given an environment conducive enough to exercise their expertise to their fullest capabilities in management of the environment.

Mr. President,

As I am speaking now, as part of the post-pandemic plans, the Government of Malawi through my Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources has already:

- Introduced a carbon levy as a sustainable funding source for environmental management in my country. The aim of the levy is to specifically establish a readily available basket towards environment and climate change management;
- We have created Malawi Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) as a principal tool for improving management of the environment. This body will be able to coordinate efforts from various stakeholders as we work towards a green recovery in the post-pandemic world; and
- We have designated a National Clean-up Day as a means of meeting our constitutional obligations in ensuring a clean and healthy environment for all. While the incidence of covid-19 may have slowed efforts in this initiative, it has afforded us the opportunity to consider other aspects of environmental management including proper management of coronavirus waste and waste for wealth.

Mr. President,

Building a resilient and inclusive post pandemic world will require international cooperation and actions from multilateral engagements. Therefore, Global solidarity is required not just because it is the logical thing to do, but also primarily because environmental challenges, do not respect national borders.

I thank you all for your kind attention