



Republic of Malawi

NATIONAL STATEMENT

BY

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CHANGE,**

**DURING THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT
OF**

**THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA 6) OF THE UNITED
NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP),**

29TH FEBRUARY 2024, NAIROBI, KENYA

- Madam President
- Excellency Ministers, Deputy Ministers or representatives,
- Distinguished delegates,

1. Let me first of all thank you and congratulate you Madam President and your Bureau, for a well organised UNEA 6. In the same vein, I want to extend my appreciation to Kenya, our host for the warm welcome, hospitality and conducive environment.

2. As we reconvene in this auspicious forum, we are called upon to reflect deeply upon the critical challenges facing our planet and to redouble our commitment to environmental stewardship through multilateral action.

3. The theme of this assembly, *‘Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution’*, resonates very well with the aspirations and priorities of the Malawian people. We are acutely aware of the interdependence between environmental sustainability and international cooperation.

4. Natural disasters, climate adversities and environmental degradation continue to exact a heavy toll on our ecosystems, undermining the resilience of our communities and exacerbating social and economic inequalities.

5. In order to confront these challenges, Malawi guided by its Vision 2063, has put in place measures targeting waste management, renewable energy, ecosystems based approaches in managing the environment, disaster risk management and green economy, amongst others.

6. In the face of the challenges and mitigation measures undertaken, we realise that we cannot address them in isolation.

7. The interconnected nature of environmental degradation demands a collaborative and concerted response grounded in solidarity, equity and shared responsibility. It is only through multilateral action, guided by the Rio Principles and relevant international instruments, that we can have development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

8. As a responsible member of the global community, Malawi is committed to playing its part in the advance of environmental stewardship. We have adopted ambitious national strategies and policies aimed at achieving a safe, clean, secure and sustainable environment.

9. However, we realise that our efforts alone are insufficient to address the scale and complexity of the environmental challenges we face.

10. We must forge partnerships, leverage resources, and harness the collective wisdom and expertise of the international community to drive meaningful change. In this regard, we commend initiatives undertaken by member states, UNEP and other relevant entities to catalyse global action on environmental issues.

11. In conclusion, while taking note with concern, the state of negotiations regarding draft outcomes of UNEA 6, I would like to appeal to all of us to ensure the spirit of the recently concluded Youth Environment Assembly, which has placed before us a call to develop systemic policy solutions informed by the best available scientific evidence and a need to commit to environmental multilateralism.

12. I thank you.