

Intervention by Mr. Mapopa C. Kaunda, Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP, during the CPR Subcommittee Meeting held virtually on 4th March 2021 on Agenda Item 2: Presentation of UNEP 2020 Emissions Gap Report and 2020 Adaptation Gap Report

Mr Chairperson,

Let me start by thanking you, the Bureau and the Secretariat for organising this meeting.

Coming right after the first part of UNEA 5 held virtually from 22 and 23 February 2021, this meeting is a noteworthy indication of our commitment to the environmental agenda.

Let me also thank the Secretariat for the production, publication and briefing provided here today regarding the two reports; the 11th edition of the Emissions Gap Report 2020 and the 5th Edition of the Adaptation Gap Report 2020. In this regard, my delegation has several points it wishes to make note of regarding both reports.

Firstly, the Emissions Gap Report or EGR.

Mr Chairperson,

The first regards, the mechanics of producing such reports. It is our considered view that the production of the reports remains transparent, inclusive and participatory. Such a goal can only be ascertained, for example in the selection and composition of members of the steering committee and panel of experts, which clearly reflects geographic and gender balance.

On the same issue of mechanics of producing the report, my delegation is very interested to hear from the Secretariat, the outline of the cost management. Specifically, were the reports produced using UNEP's core budget only? If not, what was the proportion of earmarked funding, that came from those that kindly did so. While waiting for the responses, it is my delegations view that the production of these UNEP's flagship reports should be funded using non-earmarked and core funding, which is likely free of certain potential biases. In fact, flexible sources of funds will provide UNEP with the means to provide unbiased science.

Secondly, Mr Chairperson, my delegation has taken keen interest in one of the key messages that although the covid-19 pandemic will cause a dip in 2020 emissions, the total greenhouse gas emissions reached a new high in the same year. In its conclusion that greenhouse gas emissions continued to increase, the same report identifies top emitters. Some countries, as a combined consideration, are identified as contributing up to 78% of the GHG emissions.

While Malawi takes note of the point by the EGR that those countries that are the worst emitters have higher consumption-based emissions than territorial-based emissions, as they typically have cleaner production, relatively more services and more imports of primary and secondary products, my delegation would like to take on this opportunity to reiterate calls for common but differentiated responsibilities in the environmental agenda. At the same time, while we need to protect the environment by reducing emissions, that should not be at the expense of countries taking their rightful path on the economic development trajectory.

My delegation is keen to avoid mandate creep and is aware that specific multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) are involved in ongoing negotiations regarding climate change matters. Malawi in fact and indeed has engaged, and will continue to actively engage in these negotiation processes and forums. Nevertheless, the production of the Emissions Gap Report, which is the mandate of UNEP, affords my delegation the chance to enunciate on a key principle, which is of critical importance to Malawi and other member states of like-mindedness.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is notable from the Emissions Gap report that pledges made by countries in their NDCs fall short of meeting the 2- or 1.5-degrees goal, envisaged under the Paris Agreement. Therefore, it requires all of us to advocate for more ambitious NDCs. As for Malawi, the government working with a range of stakeholders, is in the process of revising its NDC which were developed in 2015. These NDCs are Aimed at reducing carbon emissions and building climate resilience to contribute towards sustainable development, food security and poverty eradication. The revised NDCs will be submitted within 2021.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation has also taken note with appreciation the Adaptation Gap Reports and strongly aligns itself with the belief that financing for adaptation is a key challenge for developing countries like Malawi. While most developing have advanced in planning, implementation gaps remain high due to financing challenges, therefore militating against real reductions in climate risks. This point presents an unjust picture when one considers that most developing countries are low emitters and therefore naturally should not be shouldering the climate impact arising from actions of others.

Without repeating what was said earlier on the EGR, Malawi calls for an Adaptation Gap Report production process that is transparent, participatory and free of scientific or political bias.

Mr Chairperson,

The foregoing notwithstanding, Malawi is determined to reduce the vulnerability of its population and increase its ability to absorb the impacts of climate change and remain resilient. To this effect, Malawi has developed several frameworks, on climate change adaptation and resilience such as the National Resilience Strategy and the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA). Currently, within this year 2021, Malawi is in the process of developing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) whose aim is to reduce vulnerability of people in Malawi and to promote community and ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change and gender-equitable adaptive capacity for planning and implementing adaptation interventions. We are very grateful for the support, in this initiative, received support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through the NAP Readiness project amounting to \$2.8 million to advance the NAP process.

We still nevertheless urge, UNEP, in terms of adaptation, to mobilize more financial, technological and capacity building for developing countries particularly those in Africa - to enable the countries increase their adaptive capacity, improve food security, ecosystem restoration, poverty reduction and economic development.

Mr Chairperson,

Climate change management remains a key priority for Malawi. The long-term goal for Malawi is the reduction in the socio-economic impact of adverse effects of climatic change. In fact, in its new development blue-print, the Malawi Vision 2063, environmental sustainability is considered as one of the key enablers for the attainment of the vision. The vision notes that the challenges confronting sustainability in Malawi include natural disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. In the short to medium term, the desire is improved community resilience to climate change through the development of sustainable livelihoods and reduced emissions of Green House Gases. It is for this reason that within this year Malawi will undertake several initiatives on climate change. These include operationalisation of the National Climate Change Fund together with the development of a strategic framework for the Green Climate Fund, coupled with enhanced and strengthened resource mobilization skills within the environment and climate change sector. Additionally, Malawi will Convene a Green Conference as a platform for taking stock of and share

knowledge, lessons, and experiences on the different commitments and actions that different stakeholders are taking to tackle climate change in Malawi. Furthermore, Malawi will continue fulfilling its international obligations and engagements by meeting reporting requirements, such as the Fourth National Communication to UNFCCC and developing its second Bi-ennial Report to UNFCCC. Last, and certainly not least, Malawi will participate at the 26th COP of UNFCCC. What I have outlined here is a select few of the national efforts aimed at climate change management. in Malawi.

I thank you Mr Chairperson.