

THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) –  
KYOTO, JAPAN

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Mr President,

Malawi extends sincere congratulations to you, Sir, on your assumption of the high office of the President of this very important Third Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). My delegation is thankful to the Government and the people of Japan for the kind reception and hospitality it has received since it arrived in this beautiful city of Kyoto.

Mr President,

Our country views climate change as a serious threat to its socio-economic and developmental aspirations, more especially now that extreme climatic events such as recurrent droughts and the present El Nino phenomenon are threatening agricultural production and water resources on which Malawi solely depends. Malawi welcomes the opportunity to finalise negotiations for a Protocol under your able guidance at this Conference.

Mr President,

In 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro all nations committed themselves to the principles of sustainable development, out of which was born the UNFCCC to which Malawi is a party. However, barely three years after its inception it was realised that the convention did not address the climate change issue adequately and hence a Protocol or another legal instrument became necessary to address the inadequacies.

Mr President,

We are here to negotiate a protocol or another legal instrument which emanates from the Berlin Mandate and is aimed at strengthening the commitments of Annex I countries towards reduction of emissions, as stipulated in Article 4.2(a) and (b). As such, we believe that the Protocol

should not introduce new commitments for non-Annex I countries to which Malawi belongs. We look up to Annex I countries to take the lead in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions reductions and not to put any conditions on developing countries in achieving these reductions. It is unfair that developing countries are being urged to take on additional commitments under the negotiations of the Protocol. Malawi joins other developing countries in not accepting additional commitments under the Protocol as ably presented by the Chairman of G77 and China. However, it is encouraging that some speeches of developed country parties are now supporting the position of G77 and China on this issue.

Mr President,

Developing countries, inspite of their priority towards poverty alleviation, are already fulfilling commitments under the Convention. In this regard Malawi, although a Least Developed Country, has put in place a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP); carried out its GHG inventories, and vulnerability and adaptation assessment; and instituted renewable energy programmes for sustainable development. Malawi acknowledges the financial and technical support so far provided in this endeavor by the international community and looks forward to increased assistance to carry out further programmes in accordance with the Climate Change Convention, on a voluntary basis.

Mr President

To fully address climate change issues, developing countries need accelerated progress in the areas of technology transfer, technical and financial assistance and capacity building. Developed country parties are therefore urged to commit themselves to the commitments under the Convention. Malawi joins other developing countries in not supporting Joint Implementation as a solution to achieving transfer of technology, technical and financial assistance and capacity building. However, Malawi is keen to participate in Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ). Like other developing country parties, Malawi supports the proposal to establish a Clean Air Fund and looks forward to its adoption at this Session.

Mr President,

Malawi looks foreward to successful negotiations concerning Quantified Emissions Limitations and Reduction Objectives (QELROs) which make up the core of the present negotiations. As developing countries strive to achieve sustainable development, it will be inevitable for them to increase their emissions. Consequently, increase in emissions in developing countries should not be subjected to limitations in accordance with the

Protocol under the current negotiations.

Mr President,

Climate change is a global issue. Whether we are negotiating a Protocol or otherwise, extreme climatic events are and will continue to cause environmental and socio-economic disruptions, both in developing and developed countries. Therefore, it is important that this meeting should come up with a strong commitment which will abate future climatic events that may bring worse disasters than ever experienced before. The Kyoto Session of UNFCCC must come to a fruitful conclusion for the sake of the present and future generations.

I thank you, Mr President.