

**MALAWI'S STATEMENT TO THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
BONN, GERMANY: 25 OCTOBER – 5 NOVEMBER 1999**

Statement submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat on 2nd November, 1999 by D.R. Kamdonyo, Head of Malawi Delegation, for inclusion in the records of COP 5.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen.

Let me begin by extending my sincere congratulations to you on your assumption of the high office of the president of this very important fifth Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC. Malawi welcomes the opportunity to work with you and hopes that under your guidance this Conference will be a success.

Mr. President,

In 1992 at the Earth Summit, we all committed ourselves to the principles of sustainable development, out of which was born the Framework Convention on Climate Change. On realising that this convention was not adequately addressing the climate change issues, we in 1997 in Kyoto agreed on a protocol to the Convention. We are here to negotiate elements of this protocol so that it can enter into force. And as a party whose country is vulnerable to the impact of climate change and also its response measures, Malawi looks forward to the entry into force of this Protocol by the year 2001 at the latest.

Mr. President,

As we reiterated at COP 3 in Kyoto, we would like to see developed countries commit themselves to the Convention. And now, we are asking them to commit themselves to speed up the negotiations on the remaining crucial issues that are necessary to be agreed upon before the Protocol enters into force.

Mr. President,

Malawi views articles 4.8 and 4.9 of the Convention as being very crucial for developing countries. According to the conditions given in article 4.8, Malawi is likely to be impacted by both climate change and the economic effects of climate-change policies and response measures. It is a ***small, landlocked*** country, which is prone to natural disasters like ***droughts*** and ***floods***. Malawi's economy depends on production from agriculture, fishing and tourism through parks and wildlife.

Malawi therefore calls for funding to be made available to such vulnerable countries to adapt to both impacts. In this respect, Malawi needs financial assistance to improve its climate observing system and its early warning system for weather and climate related natural disasters. We call for the continuous provision of free satellite information in the framework of systematic observations. Malawi also needs funding for research and development of Fisheries, National Parks and Wildlife, and Tourism sectors of its economy.

Mr. President,

Since ratifying the Convention in 1994, Malawi has undertaken several activities in line with the requirements of the Convention. It has prepared its National Environmental Action Plan, its National Environmental Policy, and it has passed its Environmental Management Bill. It has also just produced its State of the Environment Report. Malawi has prepared its first inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and conducted a study on the vulnerability to climate change of its agriculture, water, forestry and wildlife resources. It is now engaged in the preparation of its initial national communication to the Convention which should be submitted by the end of 2001.

Mr President, we are now concerned about funding for the second communication. We believe that the preparation of national communications is a continuous process and as such, funding for the process should be continuous as well. Already several delegations in this COP have already called for non-Annex I countries that have submitted their initial communications to embark on their second communication but without any commitment for its funding. In this respect, *Mr. President*, we seem to be going back to Buenos Aires on this issue.

On Activities Implemented Jointly, Malawi feels that the out-going pilot phase has not given African countries enough experience as only a handful of them benefited. We therefore join the African Group in calling for an extension to the pilot phase.

Mr. President,

Malawi's main developmental goal is **poverty alleviation**. We therefore look upon the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which is a tool to assist non-Annex I Parties to achieve sustainable development, as one of the means in attaining this goal.. Our concern, as we have emphasised in the past, is that there has been inadequate progress so far made in the areas of technology transfer, technical assistance and capacity building that are pre-requisites for achieving sustainable development. We feel that all the efforts of addressing the protocol would be in vain if the country's capacity to deal with climate change issues was not strengthened. We therefore feel that there is need for a framework, with developed principles and guidelines, as a basis of capacity building for proper advancement of our country.

Finally, *Mr. President*, Malawi is an action oriented country and as such, it is our hope that these negotiations will not be a process of meeting old friends, but that the negotiations will be followed by an action process. And that action, *Mr. President*, **should be for the good of the global climate** and especially for the under privileged.

Mr. President, I thank you.
