



# **MALAWI**

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE DAVID FAITI, MP.  
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
AT THE  
FORTY THIRD SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 3(A)**

**REVIEW OF FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND THE OUTCOME OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SPECIAL  
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**11 FEBRUARY, 2005**

*(Check against delivery)*

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by aligning my delegation with the statements delivered on behalf of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the G77 and China.

We salute the Secretary- General for a very comprehensive and analytical report. Besides being objective, the report concisely brings out the positive developments as well as the many unfulfilled hopes and expectations set out during the Copenhagen Summit and the 24<sup>th</sup> special session of the General Assembly. The summit succeeded in raising awareness and emphasizing the importance of addressing and implementing social development issues and policies. Indeed, several social development objectives were incorporated in the Millennium Development Goals. But most importantly the goals of the summit and the MDGs are mutually reinforcing.

My delegation looks forward to the special event of the General Assembly to undertake a five year review of the Millennium Declaration and fully supports the steps outlined in the Secretary-General's report to be taken into consideration during the review. The recommendations in the report merit the international community's serious consideration.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Malawi continues to be committed to the international social development regime envisioned at the world summit for social development. In this regard Government has put in place mechanisms for multi-sectoral cooperation of various players to enhance social development. Policies have been formulated and laws enacted in order to promote an enabling environment for popular participation in social development and in respect of human rights, democracy and rule of law.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Poverty reduction has been a major development goal for Malawi since 1994. This was in realization that about 60 per cent of Malawians live below the poverty line. In an effort to address this situation, the Malawi Government introduced the poverty alleviation programme in 1994 as a main strategy to reduce poverty. In 2002, the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (MPRSP) was launched with the objective of achieving sustainable poverty reduction by empowering the poor. With the MPRS initiative, a large proportion of resources is being devoted to human capital development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Malawi has made positive strides in promoting full employment as a basic priority within her economic and social policies. Through a liberalized labour market, several programmes have been developed in order to promote full employment and investment. Among them, the Public Works Programmes, the Targeted

Input Programme to boost agricultural production, technical entrepreneurship and vocation training.

**Mr. Chairman,**

From 1997 to 2001 my government implemented the Enterprise Development and Employment Creation Programme with support from UNDP. About 9000 entrepreneurs were trained. Under the programme microfinance policy was developed with a corresponding action plan and approved by cabinet in 2002. Through the programme, nearly 5,000 Micro Small and Medium scale enterprises gained access to credit of which 75% were women.

Guided by the Cooperative Societies Act of 1998, government promoted the development of cooperative societies that have enabled the communities to meet the economic and social needs through jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprises. This has led to the promotion of service cooperatives as well as workers cooperatives that have created employment for thousands of Malawians.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The advancement of women and gender equality continues to be high on Malawi's development agenda. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty third session of the General Assembly has been and continues to be the blueprint that has guided the implementation of all gender related programmes. The Convention of Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women which Malawi ratified in 1979 contributed to the review of a number of discriminatory laws and the incorporation of a women's bill of rights in the 1995 constitution.

As a member of the SADC, government of Malawi continues to work towards the attainment of 30% target of women in decision making levels. A gender and development policy is now in place to guide all stakeholders in the area of gender.

Malawi has registered notable achievements such as an increase in number of women involved in economic activities, improvements in girl child education at both secondary and tertiary levels, increase in the number of women in top management position in both public and private sector. In the political arena there has been a 59 per cent increase in the number of women taking decision making position from 1994 to 2004. Despite all these notable achievements, some obstacles still remain to be surmounted in order to fully attain gender equality.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Our health delivery system is pro-actively responsive to the prevailing needs by providing a minimum package of essential health services to the people with

more emphasis on the poor, women and children. While almost 80 per cent of the population live within an 8-kilometer walking distance of a primary health care facility, we remain challenged by inadequate financial resources; low quantity and quality manpower; inadequate knowledge and skills among service providers; brain-drain; low quantity and quality of infrastructure; inadequate drugs/materials and supplies for provision of health and related service; HIV/AIDS, high infant and maternal mortality rate and rampant malnutrition.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Government of Malawi attaches great importance to education. With the introduction of free primary education in 1994, enrolment increased from 1.9 million to 3.2 million. A number of initiatives have been put in place in an effort to achieve universal education focusing on early childhood development, education for the girl child and school feeding to encourage school attendance. The ultimate goal of all these initiatives is the attainment of universal primary education.

**Mr. Chairman,**

From 1995 to date, Malawi has implemented three Fiscal Restructuring and Deregulation Programmes (FRDP), another form of SAP supported by the World Bank. Malawi has also been through a series of Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facilities (ESAF) supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Some notable achievements on these initiatives have been the increase in funding allocation to social services such as the education and health sectors. Human Resource development has also received much attention for instance there has been training for teachers and health workers to increase their number and improve their skills.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Malawi Government development objective is centred on economic growth strategy which is aimed at increasing sustainable economic growth and wealth creation as a means to reduce poverty. This will integrate social development issues including human capital development, safety nets, good governance, HIV/AIDS, gender and environmental issues.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Malawi is a strong proponent of a notion of an inclusive society. The legal and policy frameworks have been used to provide guidance to programmatic activities that increases social integration of various categories of people to positively contribute to social and economic development including the youth, orphans, the elderly as well as persons with disabilities.

My delegation is happy that the work to elaborate a comprehensive and integral convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with

disabilities is underway. We are hopeful that with an internationally accepted legal instrument, the lives of the persons with disabilities will be improved significantly.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me conclude by echoing the Secretary General's assertion that progress towards the realization of a people-centered development requires a conceptual and political shift of great magnitude. Our developing nations can ill afford to do this without the necessary international cooperation. We are gratified with the support that the United Nations system and the international community has given to Africa on the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and Malawi in particular. We call for continued support in this respect.

Thank you.