

MALAWI'S CONTRIBUTION – STATEMENT

The Chairperson of the Board

The Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Distinguished Representatives,

First and foremost, the Malawi delegation would like to thank you Chairperson for the work well done to organise this Executive Board meeting.

Mr Chair,

My delegation would like to appreciate and commend the on-going efforts by UN-Habitat in support of member states, including Malawi, under the able leadership of the Executive Director Madam Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

Mr Chair,

Malawi has been a beneficiary of UN-Habitat led or supported interventions such as; projects in building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa, especially in areas which were affected by Cyclone Idai, with financial support from the Adaptation Fund. The project aims at building resilience of urban areas to effects of climate change. Another one is the nature-based solutions project as a means of mitigation against climate change. Not only has UN-Habitat assisted through financial support in these projects, we have also benefited through capacity building in other sectors.

Mr Chair,

You may be aware of the devastating impact of Tropical Cyclone Freddy (TCF), which landed in and affected mostly the districts in the southern part of Malawi. The cyclone, following heavy storms and flash floods, has caused over 500 deaths, with over 530 people reported missing and unaccounted for, over 1300 people sustaining injuries over half a million people displaced. The impact of the cyclone has affected people's livelihoods, razed down over 100,000

homes, and in some cases, entire villages were washed away. The cyclone has also damaged critical infrastructure such as roads, and bridges.

There is no doubt in our minds that a critical factor in the fall and impact of the cyclone is climate change. As His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi said, and I quote, “We are running out of time. The key to addressing climate change is sustainable development and restoring balance to our relationship with nature. Nature is losing patience with us and lashing out with unrelenting vengeance. We need to act with courage, urgency and solidarity”. End of quote.

The Malawi Government, with the support of its own citizens, local entities and international partners, have responded to the impact of the cyclone by providing emergency response, providing finances and relief items as well as search and rescue missions amongst some. As I talk about international partners, let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank our regional neighbouring countries of Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana, Zimbabwe, the Republic of South Africa and Egypt for coming to Malawi’s rescue. So too have India, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It will be remiss of me not to mention other international entities such as the European Union, SADC, COMESA and the United Nations system.

Mr Chairman,

While emergency response and other efforts have been ongoing, Malawi has the difficult task ahead of post-cyclone recovery of rebuilding livelihoods, and reconstruction of dwelling units and public infrastructure. This is a necessity that will require enormous deployment of financial resources, resources that are already constrained for the country. As such Malawi appreciates the continued support it receives from member states and other international partners such as the World Bank.

Mr Chair,

As I conclude, Malawi would like to pledge its continued support to UN-Habitat activities, by honouring its annual voluntary contributions.

With those few remarks Excellency Chair, Executive Director, I thank you very much.