



**STATEMENT BY MALAWI TO THE THIRD SESSION OF THE UN-HABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD, 28 NOVEMBER 2023, NAIROBI, KENYA ON AGENDA ITEM 4**

1. Mr. Chairperson and distinguished delegates, I am honoured to present this statement on behalf of Malawi at this session of the UN-Habitat Executive Board.
2. From the outset, let me thank you Chair and your Bureau together with the Secretariat for the excellent preparations and organisation work for the session ahead of us.
3. The Government of Malawi is committed to the development of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
4. This impetus has been strengthened by the trends of climate change induced disasters which have in recent years devastated the country's cities, especially cyclone Freddy in March this year. This has demonstrated that urban areas are more vulnerable, to disasters and other effects of climate change and climate variability. This is why the government of

Malawi commends UN-Habitat for the support in the building of the resilience of the cities in the country, especially the implementation of the **Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa pilot project.**

5. Malawi is one of the beneficiaries of this project which UN-Habitat, through the Adaptation fund is implementing in the four cities of Morondava in Madagascar, Zomba in Malawi, Chokwe in Mozambique and Moroni in the Comoros.

6. Through this project, Zomba City Council, in collaboration with OXFAM Malawi, has constructed a drainage System, a bridge on one of the artery river along an evacuation route in the city and a Multipurpose Evacuation Centre among other interventions. All this has contributed in building the resilience of Zomba city to flooding which is currently on the increase both in terms of frequency and intensity.

7. The project is also supporting urban resilience capacity building and development of tools and instruments to facilitate urban resilience building not only for Zomba, but all the cities and urban areas in the country.

8. The impact of this project was seen recently when cyclone Freddy brought torrential rainfall which was accompanied by strong winds, causing heavy flash flooding and landslides. The flooding, from one of the rivers in the city, did not cause as much damage as was the case in the past, because of the improved drainage system. The past flooding saw people being evacuated to schools, disrupting classes, but this time some of the

affected people were accommodated within the Multipurpose Evacuation Centres.

9. One of the interventions to be implemented under this project was the installation of automated river gauges for monitoring water levels of rivers within the city, and flood detection. However, analog river gauges will be installed instead, due to cost implications. The automated river gauges are a preferred choice since they are a crucial component of an Early Warning System, and are key to increasing the responsiveness.

10. Distinguished delegates, Malawi recognizes that building urban resilience is key to the development of inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable cities and reiterates her commitment to implement the New Urban Agenda, in order to achieve the sustainable development of human settlements. Malawi further commends the work of the UN-Habitat in ensuring that infrastructure, policies and governance structures are put in place to ensure the preparedness and reduce the vulnerability of urban areas during climate induced disasters.

11. Malawi shall endeavour to strengthen her partnership with UN-Habitat and other development partners and agencies which are key to her efforts to build urban resilience and reduce the vulnerability of the urban communities, economies and infrastructure. In this spirit, Malawi commends UN-Habitat for increasing its staff in Malawi as this enhances the technical support it provides and improves implementation of their projects.

12. As I conclude, Malawi commends the United Nations through the UN-Habitat for its commitment towards sustainable development of urban and human settlements in the midst of global challenges.

13. I thank you all for your kind attention.