



Republic of Malawi

IN SEARCH OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

statement by

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. BINGU WA MUTHARIKA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

to the

**SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK

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Madam President

Your Excellencies

I take this opportunity to convey my warm congratulations on your election to the presidency of the Sixty-First Session of the General Assembly. My delegation welcomes your leadership and would like to assure you of our unwavering support in your duties of President of the United Nations. We are confident that under your able leadership, the reform programmes of the United Nations will be advanced.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, for the leadership he provided in steering the affairs of the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly. My delegation has noted with satisfaction the service rendered by Mr. Eliasson and that under his presidency, positive advancements have been made towards the reform of the United Nations. Malawi salutes him for his dedication.

Madam President

Malawi welcomes the admission of the Republic of Montenegro as the 192nd member of the United Nations. We particularly commend the peaceful and democratic way in which the Republic of Montenegro gained its independence. Malawi wishes President Filip Vujanovic and the people of the Republic of Montenegro, continued peace and prosperity as they chart the way forward and take their place in the United Nations.

Madam President

At the end of this year, we bid farewell to Mr. Kofi Annan, who has served as Secretary General of the United Nations for two consecutive terms. I am happy to join those who have spoken before me, in paying special tribute to Mr. Annan for the dynamic leadership he has provided to the United Nations during his tenure of office.

There are a lot of achievements by Mr. Annan but perhaps one of the greatest is his ability to remain calm and well focused under great pressure. During his tenure of office, the United Nations faced daunting challenges that included the fight against famines, hunger, and natural disasters in many parts of the world; civil wars in Africa and conflicts in the Middle East, and the Gulf Region; international terrorism; and the fight against HIV and AIDS.

I am particularly pleased to note that the Global Fund for HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, was initiated by Mr. Annan.

It is therefore with great pleasure that, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Malawi, and on my own behalf, I honour and pay tribute to Mr. Kofi Annan for his sterling service to the United Nations. I trust that he will continue to be of service to humanity, in other capacities.

Madam President

The theme for this year's session "**Implementing a Global Partnership for Development**" is very pertinent because during the 2005 Session, we renewed the mandate of the United Nations to meet the challenges of the millennium, such as eradicating global poverty and injustice, and the promotion of democracy, human rights, peace, security and stability in the member nations. We asserted that these are essential ingredients for sustainable economic and social development and that they are interlinked and mutually reinforcing in the quest for the betterment and well being of humanity as a whole.

I believe that in the search for global partnership for development, the greatest challenge the United Nations faces is to eradicate poverty that engulfs the majority of humanity.

I am pleased to note in this regard, that the G8 countries, together with multilateral agencies and the United Nations, are committed to poverty alleviation and eradication.

I believe that global peace, security and stability cannot be assured if the greater section of humanity leaves in abject poverty. It is our hope that those who have, should learn to share with those who do not have.

Madam President

In order for me to present to this August Assembly, the need for a global partnership framework, as a way to achieve faster and sustainable rate of economic growth, let me use Malawi, my own country, as an example. Let me start by stating that in Malawi, we have determined priorities that would fast track socio economic growth for the people. We are cognizant that in a poor nation like ours, everything becomes priority, but we have agreed on a set of “**priorities within priorities**” that we want to implement in the next five years.

These are agriculture and food security; irrigation and water development; transport and communications infrastructure; energy; integrated rural development; and prevention and management of HIV and AIDS. We believe that when fully implemented, these sectors will, together, pull our people out of poverty.

We have given the highest priority to **Agriculture and Food Security** because this sector is the mainstay of our economy and we intend to make Malawi a “hunger-free” nation. We are assisting smallholder and peasant farmers to increase their productivity in food and cash crops by providing cheap fertilizers and high quality farm inputs. This will provide food security as well as expand agro-processing industries and value adding to our products. We seek international support in this area.

Secondly, we need international partnership in **Irrigation and Water Development**. This would reduce our country's dependence on rain-fed agriculture. We aim at having small, medium and large scale irrigation schemes and construction of multipurpose dams throughout the country. This will enable Malawi to produce enough food even when the rains fail.

Thirdly, we consider **Transport and Communications Infrastructure** to be essential for growth and development and a good candidate for international partnership. We are convinced that through well developed road networks, we will improve not only movement of goods and services from rural areas to the urban, but also enhance domestic and international trade.

More importantly, Malawi seeks global partnership in opening up access to the Indian Ocean through the existing Shire and Zambezi Waterway that is navigable all the way from an inland port in Malawi to the port of Chinde on the Indian Ocean, only 238 kilometres away. This waterway would benefit Malawi and other SADC countries especially Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Zimbabwe.

Fourthly, Malawi has also selected **Energy** as another area of international partnership. We believe that it is imperative for our country to develop adequate and reliable energy for agriculture, irrigation, transport, industry and all other areas of our economic transformation.

Fifthly, Malawi would welcome international partnership in promoting **Integrated Rural Development** aimed at eradicating poverty among rural communities. We have recognised that the economic stratification of our country is such that the greater percentage of the people live in rural areas under squalid conditions. We seek donor support to boldly take development to the rural areas through promoting Rural Growth Centres.

Madam President

Let me further elaborate the concept of integrated rural development. For each Rural Growth Centre, we plan to have a good tarmac road, piped water, electricity, a police station, a bank, a post office, a hospital, a secondary school and a community hall. This programme would result in boosting the rural economies as well as in reversing rural to urban migration, since the rural areas will have the same facilities and job opportunities that are now available in the urban centres. This would in turn reduce pressure on social services such as food, water, medical facilities, schools and security.

Lastly, Malawi seeks international partnership in the **HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management**. We recognise that our country on its own, cannot successfully wage the battle against HIV and AIDS without the full support of international development partnership. I am happy to say that during the past two years, Malawi has made tremendous progress in AIDS awareness, the supply of ARV drugs and voluntary testing.

I wish to commend the Global Fund for HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria initiative that has enabled us to make positive advances in my country. The Global Fund has given new hope to our people who now have easier and cheaper access to prevention, treatment, care and support services.

Madam President

This is Malawi's agenda for Implementing a Global Partnership Development. I am submitting this agenda to the United Nations for support.

Madam President

Your Excellencies

Secretary General

Before I end my statement, two important issues need mention. The first one is that through a global partnership, Malawi has reached the Completion Point in the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Programme. I and the people of Malawi are truly grateful that our multilateral debts have been cancelled by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. We thank the G8 countries for spearheading and for the commitment to the HIPC Initiative. We believe this is a true example of global partnership in development. With this debt cancellation, Malawi is on the way towards economic recovery and sustainable development.

The second issue that is germane to global partnership is for me to reiterate my plea for the re-admission of the Republic of China (Taiwan) as a member of the United Nations. Many of you will agree that since the end of the Cold War and with the advent of globalization, Taiwan has quietly contributed to the work of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, in the areas including technology, medicine, research, industry and international trade. Such contribution becomes increasingly important especially within the principle of universality, equity and justice.

Madam President

Your Excellencies

Let me conclude by drawing the attention of the General Assembly to the report entitled *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all*”, by Mr. Kofi Annan, who stated that “*The right to choose how they are ruled, and who rules them must be the birthright of all people, and its universal achievement must be a central objective of an Organization devoted to the cause of larger freedom.*”

To me, such larger freedom means freedom for every nation to belong to the United Nations, freedom from oppression of one nation by another, and freedom for every nation to contribute to global partnership for development. These are the freedoms the United Nations should cherish and uphold.

I therefore appeal to the Security Council to reconsider that Taiwan should be granted observer status of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, pending a full review. I am convinced that continued denial of Taiwan's participation in the community of nations, poses a moral and legal challenge to the United Nations, especially considering that Montenegro has just been admitted.

I thank you for your attention.