MALAWI

STATEMENT BY

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AT

THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA 23: COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS

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Mr. Chairman

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished Representatives of South Africa, Bangladesh and Zambia, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries, respectively.

We would also like to thank the Secretary General for his insightful reports under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

The LDCs and LLDCs have always been confronted with daunting developmental challenges. The recent multiplicity of the global crises, such as the global financial and energy crises have further exacerbated the situation and thus making these countries more vulnerable. This is very clear in the report, which indicates that most of the LDCs continue to remain in abject poverty, rising inequality, a stagnant share of manufacturing in GDP, insufficient generation of decent jobs and continued low pace of economic expansion given their level of development and growth potential and volatility of such expansion.

The report has further noted that although the Foreign Direct Investment flows increased by 14 percent, the global FDI was still marginal at only 2 percent and that ODA flows in 2014 were still below the level reached in 2008, prior to the global and economic crisis. This trend therefore still put these countries at risk of failing to achieve the internationally agreed development goals including the SDGs.

In order to mitigate the adverse effects of the various crises on these countries and also consolidate the economic development thus far achieved, the international community must take into consideration the priorities of these vulnerable countries, inject the FDI and assist in capacity building and technical support also in research and development, among others.

In this respect, Malawi wishes to recognize the many efforts made by the development partners in assisting the LDCs and expresses hope that this gesture will continue as we move into the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Chairman

My delegation would like to reiterate the need for all stakeholders to commit to the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the decade 2011-2020 and to fully integrate priority areas into sustainable development goals to enable half of the LDC meet the criteria for graduation by 2020.

It is however, sad to note that although the LDCs, including my own country Malawi, made some tremendous progress in the MDGs particularly in social and human development, there is more work to be done in order to ensure that no one is left behind as alluded in the 2030 Agenda. In this vein, we join other fellow LDCs in calling upon our development partners to give special priority to LDCs, in order to ensure that these LDCs are in the right track in embracing the SDGs.

Mr. Chairman

As indicated in my previous statement, it is worth noting that a number of member states reiterated the emphasis as outlined in the 2030 Agenda on providing scaled up assistance to the least developed countries and the other groups of countries in special situations. Malawi therefore joins other Least Developed Countries in reaffirming
its commitment to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA), and Vienna Programme of Action for the landlocked developing countries.

It is a known fact that ODA continues to play a critical role in development efforts of the LDCs. Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) provisions encourages ODA providers to consider setting the target to provide at least 0.20 percent of GNI as ODA to LDCs. Therefore, through the AAAA, countries like Malawi could receive smarter ODA that can make a difference in catalyzing growth and development.

LDCs continue to remain vulnerable to numerous challenges the world is facing. It is my delegation’s hope that the Istanbul Programme of Action will receive the highest attention it deserves, and that it will be implemented in its entirety. We hope that through the IPOA, LDCs will benefit from duty free, quota free market access and supply side capacity building.

As we draw closer to the midterm review of the IPOA next year, it is imperative that our development partners redouble their efforts to consolidate and build upon the achievements that have been made. It is in this spirit that my delegation wishes to call upon all relevant stakeholders to fulfill their commitments as contained in all UN declarations that were adopted in relation to the development of groups of countries in special situations.

Mr. Chairman

As LLDCs, Malawi reiterates the importance of establishing a new forum to bridge the infrastructure gap as agreed in the AAAA. This would also be one of the many ways to assist the LLDCs to achieve the infrastructure development that they need for their economic growth. We are very hopeful that development partners and all stakeholders will support this cause accordingly.

We also wish to stress the importance of an International Investment Centre for the LDCs, which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provided a solid platform on which we can all build on.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, Climate change also continues to be one of the many challenges that LDCs and LLDCs face. It is therefore our hope that the upcoming COP21 in Paris will provide the best opportunity to agree on an ambitious deal that would take into consideration the special needs of countries in special situations including the LDCs and LLDCs.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation has a great expectation that this Committee will continue to advance the issues in the interest of both developed and developing countries, with special emphasis on the least developed countries. We reiterate our strong commitment to the implementation of both the IPOA as well as the Vienna Programme of Action. We also wish to thank our development partners who have supported us and continue to do so in the implementation of these two Programmes of Action.

I thank you all for your attention.