REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE FRANCIS KASAILA M.P., MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

DURING

ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE GROUP OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

NEW YORK

25TH SEPTEMBER, 2019
Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this meeting aimed at addressing the needs and challenges faced by LLDCs.

In 2014, the international community adopted the Vienna Program of Action (VPoA) for LLDCs with six priority areas with a view of providing strong basis for solutions to unique challenges faced by LLDCs.

As part of implementation of VPoA, Malawi ratified WTO’s Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Malawi also subscribed to the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme for COMESA, SADC, and East African Community. We believe TFA is a viable tool for promoting economic development in LLDCs by facilitating reduction in the cost of doing business. We are also implementing one stop border posts to ease transit issues. It is also imperative that partners continue to support trade facilitation programmes under Aid for Trade and other avenues in our countries.

Excellencies

It has been five years since VPoA was adopted. Evidence shows that some progress has been made in its implementation. However, a lot still needs to be done to meet the 2024 target. In Malawi we have seen decrease in Official Development Assistance, increase in disaster
occurrences and more vulnerable people being dragged deep into poverty. There has been a lot of talk on the commitments by all stakeholders. The time has come to look at the gravity of support that is being provided to LLDCs.

The upcoming comprehensive Midterm Review in December this year is, therefore, timely for all stakeholders to take stock of not only what has been done so far, but also how we have done it and the recorded impact of the same and chart the way forward if we are to achieve the 2030 SDGs.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!