



Malawi Government

STATEMENT BY

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MINISTRY OF GENDER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL
WELFARE – MALAWI

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES (UNCRPD)

AGENDA ITEM 5(a)

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Chairperson,

I thank you for giving Malawi the floor to participate in the general debate.

The Government of Malawi believes that an inclusive data collection system contributes to inclusively informed policies and strategies. Malawi has, therefore, reviewed the mechanism of national data collection in line with Article 31 of the Convention so that the Population and Housing Censuses, the Integrated Household Surveys, the Demographic and Health Surveys and other key national surveys are disability inclusive. This will facilitate the formulation and implementation of policies and strategies that will help to achieve the aspirations of the Convention.

Chairperson,

Malawi's newly developed Vision 2063 and its medium-term development plan, aims to have an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation. This is a commitment that the Malawi government has made towards the promotion of inclusion of disability in the national development agenda. Through this development agenda, Malawi intends to create a conducive environment that gives equal opportunities to persons with disabilities to participate in all aspects of life and contribute to national development.

In compliance with the Convention, the Government of Malawi reviewed the 2006 National Policy on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and came up with a new National Disability Policy. This Policy promotes planning disability interventions by different sectors within their respective

budgets, policies, and programmes. To this end, we have seen, among others:

1. Development and adoption of Standards on the Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment, and the National Medical Rehabilitation Policy.
2. Development of a list of assistive devices and specification and adoption of a national list of assistive technology.
3. Creation of a National Technical Working Group on Disability Affairs.
4. Development of a National Inclusive Education Policy.

Chairperson,

Despite the achievements, Malawi continues to face resource challenges to support implementation of disability policies and programmes. While the Government of Malawi continues to allocate resources through the national budget on disability, there are still gaps in funding from development partners, NGOs and CSOs.

Access to social services among persons with disabilities remains a challenge due to inaccessible infrastructure and facilities and negative attitudes towards disability matters by the public including some policy makers.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Malawi's commitment to promoting disability inclusion in all national policies, plans, and strategies as we implement the Convention.

I thank you, Chairperson.