



INTERVENTION

BY

**HONOURABLE GEORGE T. CHAPONDA, M.P,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MALAWI**

**DURING ROUND TABLE 1: *STRENGTHENING THE THREE
PILLARS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY
ERADICATION, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND
DECENT WORK FOR ALL AND SOCIAL INCLUSION,***

**AT THE SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT,**

DOHA, STATE OF QATAR,

4TH TO 6TH NOVEMBER, 2025.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Lilongwe,
November, 2025.**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Malawi's vision for an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation is anchored in Malawi 2063. In this regard, the three pillars of social development; poverty eradication, human capital development through decent work, and social inclusion remain our highest priorities.

A. Progress on Poverty Eradication

Our Social Cash Transfer Programme now reaches 381,735 households, supporting 1.8 million people. This investment has enabled:

- (i) Over 80% of ultra-poor households to improve food diversity;
- (ii) School enrolment among beneficiary children rising to 95%; and
- (iii) A notable reduction in child labour.

Access to Early Childhood Development has expanded dramatically, growing from 5% in 2000 to 54% in 2024, resulting in literacy and numeracy scores nearly doubling.

We recognize that 70% poverty levels and worsening climate impacts demand accelerated global action.

B. Expanding Productive Employment and Decent Work

To create viable livelihoods, Malawi is scaling entrepreneurship and skills development:

- (i) Over US\$80 million in loans has been disbursed by the National Economic Empowerment Fund, (NEEF), benefiting more than 400,000 youth;
- (ii) Over 200,000 young people have been trained through TEVET reforms in high-growth sectors such as construction and digital technology.

Nonetheless, a large informal sector and skills mismatch continue to slow progress.

C. Advancing Social Inclusion and Human Dignity

Through coordinated national efforts:

- (i) Gender-Based Violence decreased from 32% to 24%;
- (ii) Child marriages reduced from 42% to 37%; and
- (iii) Women's parliamentary representation is now 20%.

Additionally, 11,000 persons with disabilities have received education support and assistive devices through the Disability Trust Fund.

We remain committed to tackling stigma, discrimination, and resource gaps that hinder inclusion.

(D) A Renewed Call for Global Solidarity

To accelerate progress across all three pillars, Malawi urges:

- (i) Scalable financing for climate resilience;
- (ii) A fairer global trading system enabling African industrialization; and
- (iii) Debt sustainability solutions that free fiscal space for essential social investment.

Closing

The journey is challenging, but our conviction is strong. Malawi is determined to ensure that every citizen lives in dignity, participates fully in society, and is not left behind. Working with partners here today, we can drive meaningful and lasting progress.

I Thank you.