

STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY

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DURING SESSION ONE OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING (ARRM): MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE ON LESSONS LEARNED AND BUILDING BACK BETTER

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Fellow Honourable Ministers;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen

This moment, this Dialogue presents a great opportunity for African LDC's and Haiti to assess progress made in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action. Amidst us is the COVID-19 pandemic whose impact has been catastrophic in all key sectors of our development. Despite that, we are optimistic that with the resilient recovery plans we have formulated, our economies will be "built back better and stronger" and deliver the much-needed socioeconomic development to our citizens.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me at this moment share lessons and experiences from Malawi.

Malawi domesticated the Istanbul Programme of Action into the national development strategies to ensure that implementation of the Strategy is simplified by using national financing systems. With this, we have made tremendous progress in agricultural productivity, productive capacity, energy, transport infrastructure, and trade and investment.

Malawi increased agricultural productivity primarily through the provision of agricultural input subsidy. The major setback is the prevalence of climatic shocks including droughts and floods. For instance, Malawi was hit hard by Cyclone Idai in 2019. To address these shocks, we are investing in climate smart agriculture.

In productive capacity, Malawi has focused on value addition interventions on key agricultural crops such as cassava, beans, oil seed products such as soya beans and pigeon peas, which we plan to start exporting globally.

In the energy sector,