



GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, PROFESSOR ARTHUR
PETER MUTHARIKA, PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF
MALAWI.**

**DELIVERED AT THE GLOBAL LEADERS' MEETING ON
GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: A
COMMITMENT TO ACTION.**

Theme: "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality"

27TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

Check against delivery.

Chairperson

Allow me to congratulate UN Women for Organizing and hosting the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, under the theme: *“Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality”* on the margins of the 70th United Nations General Assembly.

My Government and I personally is committed to the accelerated implementation of actions and activities which aim to achieve Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Malawi.

Chairperson,

At my ascendancy to the Presidency, I emphasized that my administration will work with both women and men to utilize all human resource in order to develop Malawi. The HeforShe Campaign is one of the strategies that my Government has adopted to address gender inequalities; end Gender Based Violence; Promote Women Political Participation and facilitate the economic empowerment of women.

Nationwide sensitisation on the campaign has been carried out and men have been mobilised to support gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In February 2015, my commitment culminated into Male Cabinet Ministers, Senior Government Officials, Members of

Parliament, Captains of Industries, and Traditional Leaders signing the HeforShe campaign committing themselves to gender tenets.

Subsequently, Malawi enacted the ground breaking Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act that puts the age of marriage at 18 years. Gender Responsive Budgeting was prioritised in the formulation of the national budget. In addition, Traditional Leaders established a Chief's Gender Council to support the campaign on ending of child marriage, promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

My Government has identified gender equality and women empowerment as one of the core priority areas of the revised Malawi Growth and Development Strategy. My administration is working closely with banks, Microfinance Institutions and other stakeholders to increase women's access to financial services and productive resources. The Gender Equality Act of 2013 provides for 40:60 or 60:40 pf either sexes representation in politics and decision making at levels of the development agenda. Further, a National Plan of Action on Gender Based Violence has been developed to end epidemic.

To fast track the HeforShe Campaign, mechanisms have been put in place to engage all Government departments, Faith Based Leaders, and Law Enforcers. The Promotion of the adoption of Gender Responsive Budgeting at both national and sub national level is at advanced stage. For

me to fulfil my Global Impact Championship responsibility, I call upon all Development and Discreet donors to support this task. I am also calling upon my fellow Heads of State and Governments to mainstream Gender, the empowerment of Women and Girls, HIV and Nutrition in all the Sustainable Development Goals and their indicators.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!