



MALAWI GOVERNMENT

**TALKING POINTS TO BE DELIVERED  
BY**

**HIS HONOUR, DR. SAULOS KLAUS  
CHILIMA, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**DURING A VIRTUAL DURING THE  
AFRICAN REGIONAL FORUM ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH, 2021 FROM 12:15PM**

NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE  
ZOMBA  
MARCH, 2021

- **Your Excellency Chair of the bureau of the seventh session of the Regional forum**
- **The moderator, Mr. Houghton Irungu, Executive Director, Amnesty International Kenya**
- **Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and head of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction,**
- **H.E. Alexander Chiteme, Minister of National Development and Planning, Zambia**
- **H.E Dr. Fitsum Assefa, Minister, Planning and Development Commission of Ethiopia**
- **Mr. Hamadoun Toure, Minister Digital Economy, Mali**

- **Ambassador Kipyego Cheluget, Assistant Secretary General for Programmes, COMESA**
- **Prof. Davis Everatt, Chairperson, South African Statistics Council**
- **Stephen Chacha, Executive Director of Africa Philanthropic Foundation, and Co-Convener of Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform**
- **All Protocol Observed.**

## **Introduction**

As a State Vice President of my beautiful country Malawi and Minister responsible for Economic Planning, Development and Public Sector reforms which also oversees the functional areas of the country's National Statistical office I join my fellow members in this important panel discussion. It is my sincere hope that we will collectively bring to the table insights that will among other things address issues of importance on the status of availability, access and application of accurate data for evidence-based implementation including reporting on the 2030 agenda and the agenda 2063.

This event therefore accords me an opportunity to share my country's experience and progress on the work done on the country's National Statistical Systems and their use and application.

#### **A. Malawi's Status on data collection, Analysis and Dissemination**

1. The Government of Malawi has managed to regularly conduct the Population and Housing Census (PHC) after every ten years; the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and the Multiple Indicator Surveys (MICS) after every 5 years; and the Integrated Household Surveys

(IHS) after every 3 years, and many other thematic surveys as per demands from users. This surpassed relatively well the status of other jurisdictions in the regions.

- 2.** The use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) in data collection has improved the quality of data and enhanced the generation, management, dissemination and use of accurate data and statistics.

## **B. Notable Examples of Success Stories in Data collection, Management and successful use of statistical data for national Planning, monitoring and decision making**

1. The wealth of data and statistical information generated through PHC, DHS, MICS, (IHS) (presented at National, District and sometimes TA levels) has proved invaluable for national planning, monitoring, reporting and decision-making processes. Some of the good examples of successful use of the data and statistical information generated through the National Statistical Services are as follows;

a) It was only last year that Malawi made its first Voluntary National Review presentation to High Level Political Forum thanks to the availability of current data and statistics that have been generated using internationally defined standards and methodologies and through;

b) With an improving National Statistical System the Government has managed to regularly review and report on progress in the implementation of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategies, Africa Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals as well as strategic sectoral policies



and plans. It is as a result of this improving National Statistical System that Government has been able to use the statistical system to make the following conclusions;

- i) That overall implementation of the national development strategy is progressing fairly, but progress towards pursuing the policy aspirations is fragmented, lacking coordination between stakeholders both state and non-state actors which includes: the private sector, NGOs, CSOs and the academia;

- ii) The mid-term review report findings revealed that on sector performance, 85 indicators out of the total 215 indicators were either achieved (31 percent) or on course (9 percent). The remaining 60 percent represented indicators that were not achieved (18 percent), no data available awaiting a survey (14 percent) or missing data where the sector failed to provide the information (28 percent).
- iii) With regard to the SDGs indicators which were domesticated in the MGDS

III's M&E Framework. The analysis reveals that the country has already met 18 targets and 18 indicators. Areas registering good progress include SDG 4 (Inclusive and quality education), SDG 12 (Sustainable consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals) and some targets under SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) Malawi is likely to achieve 19 targets and 33 indicators, which include targets in SDG 3 (Good health

and well-being), SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 8, SDGs 12 and 15.

## **B. Some Few Critical Success factors for an effective National Statistical System**

One key observation behind the good progress that our country has registered is that the sectors/MDAs which managed to provide data for their indicators and targets mostly are the ones who have a well-established M&E system and whose sector working group (SWG) is functional and allows the flow of data from the producer to users.

### **C. Some of the Main Challenges that Malawi faced during the reporting period**

In the pursuit to development a successful national statistical system the country continues to face the following challenges;

- i) Poor coordination of the SWGs;
- ii) Lack of champions in M&E at institutional level; and
- iii) Data collection method where by some rely on the national surveys which are done at high

intervals after 2, 3 or 5 years

#### **D. Relevant Support required from Development partners**

To ensure generation, availability, management, access, dissemination and use of data /statistics to inform policies and actions more particularly aimed at recovering from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerating the implementation of the agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 the following support will be required to Malawi;

- i) Since the National Statistical System (comprising NSO, other MDA compiling administrative data, research institutions etc) led by the National Statistical Office are the key stakeholders in the generation, dissemination and use of statistics, and they can better be supported by providing adequate financial, material and technical assistance resources to fulfil their roles;

- ii) Build capacity to implement advanced innovative digital and online data collection systems;
- iii) Enhance capacity in the generation and use of administrative data; and
- iv) Build capacity in the use of big data such as mobile data, satellite imagery.

**I thank you all for your attention.**