



## **2023 PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DECLARATION ON SDGS AT MID-POINT IN MALAWI**

### **A. PREAMBLE**

We, the participants of the 2023 People's Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) convened at this critical juncture which marks the mid-point in our journey towards achieving the global goals, hereby declare our unwavering commitment to the fulfilment of the SDGs in our beloved nation, Malawi.

We have come together as a diverse and united assembly, representing the citizens and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) of our nation, to reflect upon the progress made, the challenges we face, and the collective steps required to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs in Malawi. We understand that achieving these goals is not merely an aspiration but an urgent imperative for a just, equitable, and sustainable future.

We, the participants at the 2023 People's assembly:

### **B. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PROGRESS:**

1. commend the considerable efforts that have been made in the implementation of the SDGs thus far in some sectors of development.
2. acknowledge the positive changes that have occurred in several areas, including improved access to essential services, poverty alleviation, and gender equality. These achievements demonstrate our shared commitment to realizing the transformative vision of the SDGs.
3. note the commitment to localise the SDGs through Malawi 2063 and its First Implementation Plan (MIP-1, 2021 – 2030)
4. further note the role of district councils in the implementation of SDGs and the support being given by Government through Constituency Development Fund and various other initiatives

### C. REGISTERING THE CONCERNS:

1. recognise the persistent challenges that hinder our progress. These challenges include, but are not limited to:
  - i. **Inequality:** Inequalities within our society continue to persist, with marginalized communities and vulnerable groups still facing disparities in access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.
  - ii. **Environmental Sustainability:** Our environmental resources are under stress, and we are confronted by the urgency of addressing climate change and protecting our natural environment.
  - iii. **Financial Resources:** The adequate allocation of resources for SDG implementation remains a challenge, and financial constraints are impeding the comprehensive realization of the SDGs.
  - iv. **Data and Monitoring:** We acknowledge that the lack of accurate data and comprehensive monitoring mechanisms limits our ability to track progress and make informed decisions.
2. acknowledge with deep concern that our nation faces a formidable challenge in achieving the SDGs by the designated timeline. Despite efforts to address these global commitments, the risk of falling-short in almost every SDG remains a stark and unsettling reality. Poverty, inequality, inadequate access to essential services, environmental degradation, and gender disparities persist, threatening the well-being of our citizens and the sustainability of our nation
3. note that failure to meet the SDGs is not merely a statistic; it signifies a bleak future where our citizens, especially the most vulnerable, will continue to suffer the consequences of unmet needs. This scenario endangers our economic stability, environmental well-being, and social cohesion. It is a future we are unwilling to accept
4. recognize that we are at a pivotal juncture, and we face the very real risk of not meeting the SDGs. This failure is not an option, as it would have dire consequences for the well-being and future of all Malawians.

### D. OUR URGENT CALL TO ACTION

With the foregoing, we, the participants of the 2023 People's Assembly, hereby request all stakeholders, including Government of Malawi to immediately act on the following:

1. **Urgent Prioritization:** Government and stakeholders to urgently prioritize the SDGs in all national and local development plans, policies, and actions. These global goals must become the foundation upon which we build our future.

2. **Inclusive Approach:** Government and stakeholders should reaffirm their commitment of leaving no one behind and to prioritize the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations in our pursuit of the SDGs.
3. **Partnership and Collaboration:** We call upon the Government, civil society, the private sector, and international partners to engage in collaborative efforts to secure the resources, expertise, and strategies required to accelerate progress on the SDGs.
4. **Transparency and Accountability:** We demand transparency and accountability in the management of resources allocated to SDG implementation. Effective governance is essential in ensuring that resources are used for the benefit of all Malawians.
5. **Resource Mobilization:** We urge the Government to increase the allocation of financial resources towards SDG implementation, and we, as citizens, commit to advocating for transparent and accountable fiscal management.

## **E. OUR COMMITMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

We, the participants of the People's Assembly, hereby declare our commitment to the following actions:

1. **Renewed Dedication:** We pledge to renew our dedication to the SDGs and redouble our efforts to achieve these goals. This commitment includes a focus on poverty eradication, quality education, healthcare, environmental protection, gender equality, and social justice.
2. **Public Awareness and Engagement:** We commit to raising awareness among citizens about the SDGs, their importance, and their relevance to our everyday lives. We aim to mobilize every Malawian to become an active participant in this transformative journey.
3. **Empowerment and Inclusivity:** We are committed to empowering marginalized communities, ensuring that they are active participants in the SDGs process, and addressing inequality in all its forms.
4. **Public Mobilization:** We commit to mobilizing every Malawian to actively engage with and contribute to the SDGs. The collective will of the people is indispensable in our journey towards achievement of the SDGs.
5. **Data and Monitoring:** We call for the improvement of data collection and monitoring systems, enabling accurate and real-time reporting on SDG progress. We believe that robust data is vital for informed decision-making.
6. **Environmental Stewardship:** We pledge to prioritize the protection and preservation of our environment, to work towards mitigating climate change, and to promote sustainable and responsible consumption and production.

**F. OUR UNWAVERING RESOLVE:**

We are resolute in our belief that the SDGs must be achieved, and the risk of not meeting any of these goals is a risk we cannot accept. Our commitment to this cause is unwavering, and we are determined to overcome the challenges that stand in our way.

**G. CONCLUSION**

As citizens and Civil Society Organizations of Malawi, we issue this declaration as a call to action, a call to unite, and a call to secure a brighter future for all Malawians. We believe that through our collective determination, we can overcome the odds and ensure that the SDGs become a reality for the benefit of our citizens and the prosperity of our nation. We recognize our shared responsibility to leave no one behind and to build a society that respects the principles of justice, equality, and sustainability. The SDGs provide us with a powerful framework for this purpose.

We call upon the government, international partners, the private sector, and all stakeholders to join hands with us in this noble endeavor, and we express our resolve to hold duty-bearers accountable for the commitments made in this declaration.

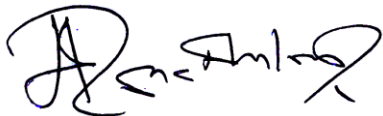
With hope, determination, and unity, we pledge to continue our journey towards achieving the SDGs in Malawi, leaving behind a legacy of progress, prosperity, and well-being for all our citizens.

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This declaration is made on this 27<sup>th</sup> Day of September in the year 2023 at CONGOMA Conference Room, in Lilongwe.

Signed, on behalf of the participants:

Ronald Mtonga



**CONGOMA**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**