



## **REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

### **38<sup>TH</sup> UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE**

#### **MALAWI POLICY STATEMENT**

President of the General Conference,

Director-General of UNESCO,

Distinguished Delegates.

Mr. President, allow me to add my delegation's sincere congratulations on your accession to the Presidency of the 38th UNESCO General Conference. I am confident that we will benefit a lot from your experience and wisdom.

I also bring fraternal greetings from His Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi.

Mr. President, as we celebrate UNESCO's 70th anniversary, the world is experiencing high levels of violence, intolerance and civil strife. This is leading to unprecedented levels of destruction of cultural properties. It is therefore important that UNESCO play a major role in helping bring lasting peace and offer solutions especially in its fields of competence, within the United Nations System. Our sincere gratitude, therefore, goes to the Director-General for the role UNESCO is playing in ensuring that cultural heritages are preserved and protected. We also wish to commend member states that continue to support financially UNESCO

in its endeavor to strengthen the implementation of the Cultural Conventions.

Mr. President, my delegation has noted with satisfaction that the Draft programme and Budget document (38C/5) has accommodated most of the programmes that adds practical meaning to Priority Africa. We are satisfied that the planned strategies and activities contained therein will dovetail into the Sustainable Development Agenda. While my delegation strongly supports the cross-cutting priorities of “Africa” and “Gender”. We eagerly look forward to achieving the envisaged benefits of the field reforms in Africa.

Mr. President, Malawi has made a strong commitment to accommodate the Incheon Education 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goal number four on education. This is reflected in Malawi’s revised Education Act which embodies the tenets of access, equity and efficiency in the education system. In this regard, my delegation wishes to support the priority areas stipulated under Major Programme One. We look forward to continued support in reforming our Technical and Vocational Education through the Better Education for Africa Rise (BEAR) project and the training courses for our education cadres organized by UNESCO institutes.

Mr. President, we are pleased with the provision of renewable energy and other priorities set out in the Science Program. We also find strategies outlined in the Social and Human Sciences Program very

pragmatic. We believe the envisaged activities outlined in the two programmes will help us respond to climate change challenges and support Malawi's social and scientific transformation.

In communication we wish to urge UNESCO to maintain the Community Radios programme which will assist countries such as Malawi to disseminate information related to Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. President, allow me to commend the Director-General for her assurance to support the Participation Program. I also wish to register my delegation appreciation to the Korean National Commission for UNESCO's support to Education for all strategies through the Bridge Africa programme and the German National Commission's capacity building programmes for National Commissions. Malawi would, therefore, encourage UNESCO to sustain programs that promote information sharing and capacity building initiated under the North-North, North-South and the South-South cooperation.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Thank you very much for your attention.