



# CLIMATE ACTION



## CONCEPT NOTE NATIONAL GREEN CLIMATE CONFERENCE (Version 19/07/2021)

*THEME: COLLECTIVE APPROACH FOR ENHANCED CLIMATE ACTION IN  
MALAWI*

### 1. BACKGROUND

Climate change presents the single biggest threat to sustainable development everywhere, and its widespread and unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. Developing countries have contributed the least to global warming but are the most affected with the adverse effects of climate change. Urgent action to halt climate change and deal with its impacts is integral to successfully achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This has also been highlighted in a series of international climate summits over the last years. Collectively, the three post-2015 agendas for action – the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – provide the foundation for sustainable, low-carbon and resilient development pathways under a changing climate.

Southern Africa and Malawi have not been spared from the adverse effects of climate change. Over half of its districts are disaster prone, exacerbated by limited

early warning systems, inadequate preparedness and recovery capacity, and an unsustainably high dependency on natural resources for livelihood and energy. Future climate change scenarios suggest that Malawi will see increasing climatic variability and climate change impacts. This variability is likely to include an increasing incidence of extreme weather events that will cause severe economic and social costs. Pursuing climate action and sustainable development in an integrated and coherent way offers the strongest approach to enable Malawi to minimize the economic and social costs of climate change and to achieve its national and international objectives under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, doing so will minimize the economic costs of climate change to Malawi.

Governments have a major role to play in addressing climate change through policy setting and driving action. Effective climate action needs, however, a “whole of society” approach, where everybody is involved, including men and women in civil society, youths and the private sector. Many organizations and private companies are already stepping up their actions to reduce emissions and increase investments in cleaner, greener technologies and de-risking the effects of climate change, and individuals are changing their own behaviours and catalysing climate action in their communities.

The UN system, together with partners including the UK, is working to help accelerate climate action and assist Malawi and other countries in southern Africa to invest in low carbon technologies and in measures for adapting to the adverse effects. From renewable energy, reforestation, and integrated landscape approaches, to climate smart agriculture, green jobs and safe water, the Government and its partners are promoting a more sustainable, low carbon, resilient and prosperous Malawi for everyone.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSED NATIONAL GREEN CLIMATE CONFERENCE

In view of the foregoing, the National Green Climate Conference is an ideal platform to consolidate and promote additional climate action for sustainability by:

- i. Assessing the status of climate action through the different commitments and activities of individuals, communities, businesses and organisations;
- ii. Connecting international commitments and national and sub-national initiatives for ensuring coherence and effectiveness of climate action;
- iii. Identifying how to overcome challenges and barriers to ensure that Malawi is able to meet its development objectives in the context of a changing climate;

- iv. Informing the SADC Conference on Green Climate Action to be held in September 2021, and presenting Malawi's status and future climate action in that Conference;
- v. Providing inputs to the preparations for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (CoP 26) that will be held in the UK in November 2021, including the finalization of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP), national priorities for the negotiations, and evidence to showcase Malawi's climate action.

### 3. POSSIBLE THEME

- **COLLECTIVE APPROACH FOR ENHANCED CLIMATE ACTION IN MALAWI**



The need for a results-focused, cross-sectoral and well coordinated National Common Climate Action Agenda which closely follows and supports the existing National Vision, Plans, Strategies, etc., as well as responds to international commitments under the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, humanitarian agendas, African Union and SADC strategies.

### 4. SUB-THEMES FOR THE CONFERENCE

- i. **National Climate Services**

Updated and well-functioning Climate Services are the bedrock for better climate science and sound climate action. With help of different Partners the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Service has developed and is implementing its Meteorological Policy and National Framework for Climate Services which lies at the heart of effective national climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- ii. **Climate Change Mitigation through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).**

Malawi submitted its Initial Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to the UNFCCC in 2016 and has now updated the NDCs as mandated by the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, which calls for increased Climate Action. The NDCs give detailed climate change mitigation paths for different sectors in Malawi that will be presented at this Conference.

- iii. **Adaptation and Resilience**

Ensuring that the economy, society, ecosystems and the environment do not suffer from economic and climate change impacts. Advancing efforts to address and manage the impacts and risks of climate change, particularly in

the most vulnerable groups such as women and youth and communities. Further mobilizing communities to take action on climate change and ensure that the general population and affected groups participate across all aspects of the climate action agenda, e.g. through Youth Groups and the new Women's Network on Climate Change.

iv. **Nature Based Solutions for effective and sustainable climate action.**



Nature-based solutions are an ecological and cost-effective element in combating climate change and offering green recovery, in line with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) priorities and themes.

v. **Energy Transition**



The energy transition is a pathway toward transformation of energy sector from fossil-based fuels to zero-carbon by the second half of this century. At its heart is the need to reduce energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to limit climate change. How to accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy, e.g. through "Green Electrification", and making significant gains in energy efficiency?

vi. **Climate finance in Malawi and the Region, and Building Back "Green" After Covid-19**



The COVID-19 pandemic has destroyed lives, livelihoods, and economies. As Malawi and the world confront the pandemic and embarks on recovery, there is growing recognition that the recovery must be a pathway to a green and sustainable economy that produces jobs and prosperity, including Green Cities, reduces emissions, and builds resilience. Mobilizing public and private investments and diversifying sources of finance to drive gender responsive climate action priorities and advance resilience should be a priority.

vii. **Preparations for SADC Regional Conference and CoP 26**



This National Conference will lead into and inform a proposed SADC Green Climate Conference, likely to be held in September 2021. Both the National and proposed SADC events should raise ambition and strengthen climate action. These events will also determine the status and offer support to the preparations for the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties

(COP 26) to the UNFCCC that is scheduled to take place from 1-12 November 2021, in Glasgow, UK.

## 5. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Target audience will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies from Malawi
- Development Partners
- Non-Governmental Organizations / Civil Society
- Local Communities and Leaders
- Academia
- Private Sector
- Marginalised groups, such as women and youth

## 6. CONFERENCE FORMAT

The National Green Climate Conference is proposed to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at the Bingu International Conference Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe. Due to the still on-going COVID-19 pandemic in Africa and across the globe, and in order to observe COVID-19 related restrictions that will be in place, the conference will be hybrid, with events offered both virtually and with the then existing allowable number of in-person delegates.

The format of the Green Conference will include the following:

### i. Exhibitions

Exhibits will serve as a platform for individuals and organizations (including government, civil society, business) to showcase activities contributing to climate action. They will cover a wide variety of topics and will be clustered by thematic groups. It will also provide participants and exhibitors with a platform to network and exchange ideas on further catalyzing climate action. If this cannot be exhibited “live” at the venue because of existing COVID-19 restrictions, pre-recorded videos or other representations will be broadcasted virtually.

### ii. Keynote Presentations and Panel discussions

- Status of Climate Action in Malawi
- Climate Services
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Adaptation and Resilience

- Nature based Solutions
- Climate Finance in Malawi
- Building Back Better After Covid-19
- Catalysing further Climate Action in Malawi
- CoP 26 preparations

### iii. Greening the conference

Since it is a green conference, it will be planned in such a way that it observes “green” measures for hosting of conferences. Organizers will develop ways to account for the carbon impacts including transportation, accommodation, conference venue, food and food-waste, paper, plastic, waste and teleconferencing-related emissions.

## 7. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Below is an abbreviated programme. A full annotated programme with details (Timings, Chairs, Presenters, Rapporteurs, Preparations) will be developed and shared separately.

DAY / Time	SESSION	LEAD / PREPARATION / REPORTING
<b>Day 1: 24/08/2021</b>		
09:00	<b>Arrivals</b>  <b>Visitation of Exhibition Space</b> <i>(if COVID rules allow)</i> : National and Local initiatives to showcase Climate Action	MFNR, Protocol, UN, FCDO
09:30 – 09:40	<b>Opening</b>	MFNR, Protocol
09:40 – 10:30	<b>Session 1 (Virtual):</b> <b>Key Note Address:</b> Status and Way Forward for Climate Action in Malawi  <b>Voices from the Ground</b>  <b>Artistic Intermezzo</b>	MFNRM / UN / FCDO / NGOs
10:30 – 11:00	<b>High-level Opening Session</b> <i>(Part Live, Part Virtual)</i>  Opening Remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representative from UNEP</li> <li>- British High Commissioner</li> <li>- UN Resident Coordinator</li> <li>- Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources</li> <li>- H.E. President of the Republic of Malawi</li> </ul>	MFNRM, Protocol, UN RCO, British High Commission

11:00 – 11:15	Launch of New Women's Network in Climate Change	MFNRM / FCDO / Women's Network
11:30 – 13:00  Break Out, Parallel Sessions	Break Out Session 1: Presentation and Panel Discussion ( <i>Live Presentation with Virtual Audience</i> ): <b>Malawi's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)</b>	MFNR / EAD / UN / NGO / Academia
	Break Out Session 2: Presentation and Panel Discussion ( <i>Live Presentation with Virtual Audience</i> ): <b>National Framework for Climate Services</b>	DCCMS / UN / FCDO / NGO / Academia
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15:30  Break Out, Parallel Sessions	Break Out Session 3: Presentation and Panel Discussion ( <i>Live Presentation with Virtual Audience</i> ): <b>Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience</b>	EAD/ DODMA/ UN/ FCDO / CSO/AGRICOM/ Greenbelt Authority
	Break Out Session 4: Presentation and Panel Discussion( <i>Live Presentation with Virtual Audience</i> ): <b>Nature based Solutions for Climate Action</b>	MFNR / UNEP / GIZ / NGOs / Academia
15:30 – 17:00  Break Out, Parallel Sessions	Break Out Session 5: Presentation and Panel discussion ( <i>Live Presentation with Virtual Audience</i> ): <b>Climate Finance</b>	Ministry of Finance / Economic Planning / NPC / UN / EAD
	Break Out Session 6: Presentation and Panel discussion ( <i>Live Presentation with Virtual Audience</i> ): <b>Building Back "Green" After Covid-19</b>	Ministry of Finance / Economic Planning / NPC / UN / World Bank
<b>Day 2: 25/08/2021</b>		
09.00 – 10:00	Plenary: Presentations of Highlights, Recommendations and Actions of Panel Sessions from Previous Day + Discussions ( <i>Live Presentation with Virtual Audience</i> ):	MFNR / UN / FCDO Session Chairs
10:00 – 10.30	Plenary: Framework for Common Climate Action Agenda in Malawi. ( <i>Live Presentation with Virtual Audience</i> ):	UN / MFNR / FCDO
10:30 – 11:30	Plenary: Status of Preparations and main Messages for COP-26 ( <i>Live Presentation with Virtual Audience</i> )	MFNR / CISONECC / UN
11:30 – 12:00	Plenary / Presentations: Award for Exhibition Winner	MFNR / PROTOCOL
12:00 – 12:45	<b>Closing Session (Part Live, Part Virtual)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Voices from the Ground: Youth, Women, Local Leaders</li> <li>- UNEP Representative</li> <li>- British High Commissioner</li> <li>- UN Resident Coordinator</li> <li>- Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources</li> <li>- Vice President of the Republic of Malawi</li> </ul>	MFNRM / PROTOCOL / UN

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