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MINISTRY OF GENDER, COMMUNITY  
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MALAWI

**Ref. No. MN/GENDER/02/014**

**1<sup>st</sup> September, 2023**

**Rt. Hon. Helen Clark  
PMNCH Board Chair  
Former Prime Minister of New Zealand**

Dear Rt. Honourable,

***Subject: Committing to Adolescent Well-being and accelerating on related SDG priorities in response to the UN Secretary General's Call for SDG Transformation Commitments at the SDG Summit 2023; and in support of the 2023 Global Forum for Adolescents***

On behalf of the Government of **Malawi**, we recognize that the well-being of adolescents is critical to achieving sustainable development and acknowledge the importance of adopting a whole-of-government approach to work together in a coordinated and collaborative manner to address the multiple and intersecting factors that impact adolescents.

We commit to strengthen the government's approach to improving adolescent well-being and accelerate the achievement of related SDG priorities for adolescents and young people as a smart investment in the future of our societies, economies, and the planet. We commit to prioritize adolescent well-being, and related SDG priorities for young people in national development plans and strategies, to ensure disaggregated data collection to better understand the challenges and opportunities for ensuring adolescent well-being, and to integrate adolescent-specific indicators into the monitoring and reporting frameworks by meaningfully engaging adolescents and young people in the design, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programs that affect their well-being.

Our commitment to adolescent well-being is:

- in response to the United Nation's Secretary-General's call for national and global commitments to deliver the 'Rescue Plan for People and Planet' at the SDG Summit 2023, that will help drive SDG transformation for inclusion and sustainability in the years ahead; and

- in support of the Global Forum for Adolescents, the world's largest-ever convening of stakeholders – youth networks, governments, private sector, donors, the United Nations agencies and others – to raise attention to the need for immediate action to advance the major determinants of adolescent well-being, as a major milestone within the 1.8 Billion Young People for Change campaign, convened by PMNCH  
On behalf of the Government of **Malawi** we commit to:

Increase the FP2030 budget to KM ONE Billion from MK570 million; Gender Budget from 0.4 to 1% of the total budget; Social Cash Transfer Budget from 20.4% to 50%; Nutrition budget from 0.5% to 1%, SRHR budget for the total Ministry budget from 9.5% to 15%,

### ***Policy Commitment***

- **Unwavering commitment to Adolescent Wellbeing (AWB)**

### ***Programme Commitments***

#### **Health and Wellbeing**

- Increase government allocation for FP 2030 from the current MK570 million to MK1 billion;
- Strengthen logistical management to prevent stockouts from the current 60% to 80%; and
- Fast track the provision of community based SRHS for adolescents from 30% to 50% using YCBDA.

#### **Optimum Nutrition**

- Provide iron, folate and nutrition support to 50% of adolescents to prevent nutritional deficiencies and reduce anemia from 35% to 10%;
- Intensifying the reduction of stunting from 33% to 10% as the predisposing factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which are becoming common.
- Intensify the prevention of NCDs by promoting the consumption of a diversified diet from the six food groups of Malawi;
- Reduce obesity in adolescents from the current 10% to 5% and prevent heart disease by 5%.



- provide agriculture technology to 30% of adolescents to make farming adolescent friendly and promote value addition,
- promote access to markets and create self-employment and decent work for them.

### **Connectedness, Positive Values and Contribution to Society**

- Establish 35 recreation facilities;
- Provide safe and reliable transport network to enable adolescents to relax, release stress, learn new skills,
- Prevent mental health and unleash the energy;
- Reduce child marriages from 42% to 30%; sexual violence from 22% to 5%; and teenage pregnancies from 29% to 12%
- Interrogate and eliminate harmful cultural practices which fuel child marriages, teenage pregnancies and sexual violence.
- Increase the overall budget allocation to the gender agenda budget from 0.4 to 1%;
- Increase the social protection budget from 20.5% to 50;
- Increase proportion of adolescents from 30% to 50% in employment
- Reduce child labour from 26% to 10%;
- Increase the number of adolescents with a bank account from 34.5% to 50%.

### **Safety and Supportive Environment**

- Removed taxes on menstrual pads to make them more accessible for adolescents and reduce the 99% menstrual poverty to 50%;
- Promote the production and provision of reusable sanitary pads to the 10 to 24 years adolescents
- Provide menstrual health hygiene (MHH) education to everyone.
- Reduce the 65% primary, 77% lower secondary and 85% higher secondary dropout rate by 30% and improve completion rate by 30% from the current levels across the board;
- Strengthen the linkage of adult literacy to formal education system as a conduit to decent work to accommodate the 40% of adolescents not in formal education system.

- Institutionalize children's and youth parliaments in all the districts as a mentorship programme for their leadership in politics;
- Conduct studies to value care work which adolescents perform and ensure mechanisms are in place to remunerate them.

### **Learning, Competence, Education, Skills and Employability**

- Increase access to internet services for adolescents from 7.3% to 60% by 2030;
- Intensify parent education programme for proper children guidance;
- Strengthen self-employment spirit from 22% to 50% coupled with training and skills transfer in entrepreneurship.

### **Agency and Resilience**

- Appealing to development partners to fulfil their commitment of providing 70% climate financing loans to be grants for countries like Malawi to benefit 40% of the adolescents affected to:
  - facilitate the construction of 30 evacuation camps from 0 in disaster prone areas where schools are closed because they become camps;
  - Implement the construction of disaster resilient structures from 0 to 20% that target adolescent;
- Popularize disaster early warning systems;
- Provide accurate weather equipment and information from 1% to 40%;
- Increase mobile court outreach services from 1% to 50% to improve access to justice for adolescent Survivors.

### **Expected outcome**

- Lives saved
- Improved life span
- Reduce fertility rate
- Reduced maternal mortality rate
- Health population
- Reduced unemployment,
- Educated, skilled and literate population
- Attained SDGs which affect adolescents

- Reduced poverty
- Economic growth
- Middle level income country
- Industrialized country
- Please include expected outcome for all the above listed commitments (e.g. lives saved or improved, population impacted)

In support of our Commitment/s please see attached supporting documents:

Our commitment is directly aligned to the domains of the domains of the Adolescent well-being framework:

The commitments apply to all the domains

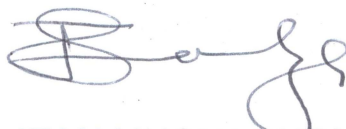
1. Health and nutrition
2. Connectedness, positive values, and contribution to society
3. Safety and a supportive environment
4. Learning, competence, education, skills, and employability
5. Agency and resilience

Our commitment is aimed at accelerating progress towards the following SDGs:

- They link to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17

By making this commitment we agree to register our commitments on the SDG Summit Acceleration and Accountability Platform. We commit to systematically report on the implementation of these commitments through existing follow-up and review processes including the Voluntary National Review Process.

Sincerely,



HON. JEAN MUONAOUZA SENDEZA, MP  
**MINISTER OF GENDER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND  
SOCIAL WELFARE**