



Press conference notes

**CITIZENS' VIEWS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN
MALAWI**

Venue: Crossroads Hotel, Lilongwe

Date: 1 December 2021

1.0. INTRODUCTION

With almost 10 years before implementation of Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs comes to an end, the National Civil Society Taskforce on SDGs in Malawi would like to share insights from the 2021 People's Report on SDGs. The insights emanate from the understanding that the Government of Malawi committed to attain the SDGs by 2030.

The 2021 People's Report has benefited from citizens perspectives on how they view progress on the implementation of SDGs at local and national levels. The views were triangulated with literature review and civil society experiences.

2.0. REPORT CONCLUSIONS

- a. Citizens have ranked Malawi's progress on SDGs as wanting. 13 SDGs (1,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17) have insufficient progress, 4 goals (2,4,5,6) have moderate progress, with no goal registering strong progress. This is happening amidst abundant development frameworks that are likely to support implementation of SDGs.
- b. Citizens recognize efforts by civil society in service provision and citizen empowerment to demand accountability and human rights.
- c. Development efforts by various stakeholders including Government, donors, civil society and private sector are not evenly distributed. Poor distribution of development initiatives and politicization being the biggest culprits.
- d. Not all Sector Working Groups, Sector wide Approaches (SWAs) and Technical working groups are performing. This has resulted in poor performance of some sectors of development.

- e. There is limited awareness on SDGs among development players, including politicians, public officials, civil society officials, religious leaders and citizens. More awareness is required to ensure all players embrace the SDGs in their family, community, district and national plans.
- f. Allocation of resource to specific SDG targets has been sporadic, with some sectors such as health, climate change, education and governance being far below internationally agreed standards.

3.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. *Civil society organizations*

- a. All CSOs should align their programmes to Malawi 2063 First Implementation Plan – MIP-1 which localizes the SDGs.
- b. All CSOs should promote rights-based, locally-driven and environmentally sustainable interventions. It is also imperative for them to build a stronger voice on governance and partnership at local and national levels.

3.2. *Government*

- a. The Presidency should ensure that institutions or departments that made pledges on Malawi 2063's MIP-1 (2021-2030) present reports in subsequent Annual National Development Conferences to make them meaningful. As partners, all stakeholders need to adhere to their commitments with evidence on progress.
- b. National Planning Commission, as an institution mandated to guide domestication of the SDGs and implementation of the Malawi 2063 together with its MIP-1 should do a policy, strategy and programme mapping for each SDGs to identify gaps.
- c. The Executive, the Accountant General, Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Director of Public Prosecution, Fiscal Police and relevant agencies should ensure transparency, prudence and accountability in the utilisation of resources.
- d. Ministry of Trade should advocate fair trade practices which have potential to boost foreign exchange and thus support the SDGs.
- e. The Executive should ensure political stability in order to woo both local and foreign investors.

3.3. *Donors*

- a. Donors should scale up and fulfill aid commitments and make the aid predictable. Malawi as a least developed country has a huge annual budget gap of up to 30-40 (Annual Budget Statement 2021/22).

- b. Data remains critical in Malawi. As such, donors should support implementation of the National Statistical System Strategic Plan (2020-2023), which will eventually lead to evidence-based planning and timely availability of official statistics for monitoring and evaluation of the MGDS III, Malawi 2063 and SDGs.
- c. IMF, World Bank and rich countries should consider cancelling all the debt that Malawi owes them as per trend set in 2006.
- d. Donors should work with Government of Malawi to mechanise agriculture to boost production. Majority of subsistent farmers in Malawi use traditional farming methods.

3.4. Citizens

- a. Citizens should own development initiatives taking place in their communities.
- b. Citizens should hold duty bearers accountable for any development lapses in their communities.

3.5. Private sector

- a. Private sector should harmonise corporate social responsibilities and indicate which SDGs they are aligning to.
- b. Private sector should regularly conduct monitoring and evaluation of their interventions to capture key economic data critical for implementation of SDGs.

3.6. Media

- a. Media should assist in popularizing SDGs and relevant local frameworks for Malawians to embrace and own development
- b. Media should continue with their role of exposing poor governance

4. CONCLUSION

As the country rolls out Malawi 2063 First Implementation Plan – MIP-1, we ask Government of Malawi to take bold steps to address the worsening poverty, inequality and climate change.

We further ask Government of Malawi to actively involve civil society and marginalized and socially excluded groups such as women, children, the elderly and the disabled in the formulation, decision making and implementation of national development policies.

For more information, contact congoma@gmail.com or 0995 805 932.

End

THE NATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY TASKFORCE ON SDGS IS COMPOSED OF:

1. ActionAid International - Malawi
2. Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET)
3. Civil Society Education Coalition (CSEC)
4. Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC)
5. Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE)
6. Council for NGOs in Malawi (CONGOMA) – Secretariat
7. Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM)
8. Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi (FEDOMA)
9. Human Rights Consultative Committee (HRCC)
10. Malawi Congress of Trade Union (MCTU)
11. Malawi Council of Churches (MCC)
12. Malawi Economic Justice Network
13. Malawi Health Equity Network (MHEN)
14. Malawi Network for Elderly People Organisations (MANEPO)
15. Malawi Network of AIDS Service Organisations (MANASO)
16. National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Malawi (NAPHAM)
17. National Advocacy Platform (NAP)
18. National Media Institute of Southern Africa (NAMISA)
19. National Organisation of Nurses and Midwives in Malawi (NONM)
20. NGO Coalition on Child Rights – NGO CCR
21. NGO Gender Coordination Network (NGO-GCN)
22. OXFAM – Malawi
23. Youth Consultative Forum
24. Water Aid – Malawi
25. Water and Environmental Sanitation Network (WESNET)
26. World Vision - Malawi