



STATEMENT

BY

MALAWI SCOTLAND PARTNERSHIP

ON

**THE HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT THE BICC
FROM 28TH TO 29TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

***MALAWI AND SCOTLAND: TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT***

26TH SEPTEMBER 2018

Greetings and Introduction

Malawi Scotland Partnership (MaSP) is a Malawian led national network, which exists to inspire, represent, coordinate and support the many civic links which Malawi has with Scotland. We do our work in partnership with the Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP) with financial support from the Scottish Government. Today, we are proud to say that more than 208,000 Malawians and 109,000 Scots are actively involved in community led partnerships.

The dignified two-way partnership between Scotland and Malawi dates back almost 160 years to the travels of Dr David Livingstone. It is a friendship underpinned by mutual respect and mutual understanding, which continues to inspire hundreds of churches, schools, hospitals, universities, businesses and NGOs to partner together for mutual benefit.

Together with the Scotland Malawi Partnership, the Malawi Scotland Partnership has organized a High-level National Conference to be held at the Bingu International Conference Centre (BICC) from the 28th to 29th September, 2018 , to celebrate the friendship between our two nations and discuss the next chapter in the bilateral relationship.

As you may all be aware, the Scottish Government has just recently announced funding to Malawi Civil Society Organizations amounting to **11 Million Pounds** to be used for the **next 4.5 years**. This funding will assist Malawi in realizing both her local goals as well as the global goals. This Conference will bring together, and listen to, a range of key stakeholders across the civil society, government and parliament to explore how best to work together to implement the *Global Goals Partnership Agreement*, signed earlier this year by the President of Malawi and the First Minister of Scotland. The conference mirrors the detailed discussion and

planning which took place at the 2005 [Malawi After Gleneagles](#) conference, hosted in the Scottish Parliament, as the [first Scotland-Malawi Cooperation Agreement](#) was signed.

MaSP and the SMP are themselves non-governmental but work closely with the Malawian, Scottish and UK Parliaments. Indeed, the enduring appeal and success of the Malawi-Scotland friendship is not just the significant shared history our two nations enjoy but also the constructive synergy and collective effort across government, parliament and civil society, and the spirit of dignified two-way partnership as opposed to simply one-way charity. This is widely seen as an innovative new approach to international development and is increasingly being emulated elsewhere. Bringing together government, parliament and civil society, this conference will help ensure the *Global Goals Partnership Agreement* continues to follow this model of collaboration, goodwill and cooperation, and that it expands and evolves to become a country-to-country and people-to-people process, rather than just a government-to-government agreement.

In this way, the conference will help further re-energise the bilateral relationship and establish a direction of travel and ways of working for this next exciting chapter, in a consultative, cross-cutting and engaging manner.

Core Priorities of conference:

The Conference will have three core areas of priority:

(i) Sustainable Development Goals:

Both Scotland and Malawi have made an explicit commitment to delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (the 'Global Goals') through their

partnership together. This conference is timed to coincide with the worldwide UN Global Goals week (22-29 Sept) and hence the Sustainable Development Goals will be a focus throughout. By helping operationalise the new Global Goals Partnership Agreement, the conference will establish a roadmap for the next stage of SDGs delivery in both nations.

(ii) Safeguarding:

Safeguarding remains a top priority for the people, government and parliaments of both our nations. The conference seeks to bring together experience and expertise from both our nations, to strengthen our mutual understanding on this most serious topic, and through two-way learning and respectful dialogue to commit all parties to the highest possible standards of safeguarding. Safeguarding will be an integral and visible part of the Conference Statement.

(iii) Youth Participation:

2018 is Scotland's Year of Young People and, with an estimated 45% of the Malawi population under the age of 15 in 2018, it is fitting that young people will have a visible and integral role in this conference.

These three core priorities will be integral throughout the conference. The second day of the conference will have very specific time on safeguarding.

Strategic Objectives of the conference:

The conference has five strategic objectives:

1. **UNITE:** Convene Malawian and Scottish representatives and key stakeholders from across government, parliament and civil society to advance understanding of, and commitment to, the nation-to-nation and people-to-people friendship amongst these representatives and stakeholders and the general public in both countries.

2. **LISTEN:** Listen to a range of voices across Malawian and Scottish society to better understand and communicate the distinctive features of the bilateral relationship.
3. **LEARN:** Provide a forum to capture learning on how this people-to-people model has developed and the impact it has had since 2005, sharing good practice and identifying opportunities to address gaps in the bilateral relationship's contribution to the development challenges facing Malawi.
4. **ENVISION:** Create vision and purpose to drive collaborative multi-sectoral working to contribute, from 2018 to 2030, to the attainment of the Global Goals.
5. **PLAN:** Advance concrete recommendations as to how the people-to-people engagement between Malawi and Scotland will work to fulfil the Malawi Scotland Global Goals Partnership Agreement (GGPA) of 2018 across the six strands: Health, Education, Civic Governance, Sustainable Economic Development, Renewable Energy, and Water & Climate.