

COP 18
LEG side event
Monday 3 December 2012, 18:30-20:00
Venue: Side Event Room 1

Statement of H.E. Catherine Gotani Hara, MP
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Management
MALAWI

Distinguished Under-Secretary General for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states,
Distinguished Head of the Finish delegation,
Distinguished Chair of the LEG,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour to address you today at this important event. Malawi is grateful to the UNFCCC and the LEG for developing technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan (NAP) process to support LDCs.

This is a recognition that much has happened since a LDC package was adopted in 2001 at the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP) and my country, Malawi, can testify.

Ladies and gentleman,

One important element of the LDC package delivered by COP 7 is undoubtedly the national adaptation programme of action or NAPA.

Malawi has prepared and submitted five projects to the LDCF for USD20.8 Million and all these have been approved and we are currently implementing one of them that is the Climate Adaptation for Rural Livelihoods and Agriculture (CARLA) with technical assistance from African Development Bank as the GEF Agency.

We also have two that are at Project Preparation stage (PPG) and these are

- Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Malawi to Support Climate Resilient Development and
- Climate Proofing Local Development Gains in Rural and Urban Areas of Machinga and Mangochi Districts.

The project we are working with technical assistance from the UNDP.

Along our journey through the NAPA process, we have learned many lessons. Allow me to share with you, some of them, which I believe will be very relevant as we embark onto a more comprehensive adaptation process, the NAP:

- It is important to present, at some point in the process, our adaptation needs in a simple format easily understood both by policy-level decision makers and by the general public.
- Climate change adaptation initiatives should not be conducted in isolation of ongoing national planning and implementation activities. In the contrary, we should seek to integrate adaptation to our existing systems, including our national development planning process. This provides great government ownership through recognizing the national government overall political responsibility in terms of legislation, regulation and overall guiding policy frameworks that will facilitate effective adaptation at all levels.
- Strong leadership and coordination is necessary for long-term sustainability of adaptation initiatives.
- Reporting on funds received is made easier when the supporting agencies are coordinating their activities and such reporting is guided by clear national guidelines.

With the lessons we have learned through the NAPA process, we are well positioned to see with excitement the opportunity that the NAP process offers, and the added value it brings to LDCs. Malawi can't wait any longer for this milestone activity as we move from NAPA, which was looking at dealing with urgent and immediate adaptation challenges, to the medium and long term adaptation planning which is the focus of the NAPs.

These opportunities include:

- Advancing work on NAPA to consider medium-and long-term adaptation;
- Consolidating adaptation activities and bringing coherence and synergy in the conduct of adaptation activities.
- Addressing climate change in a more comprehensive manner that eventually leads to achieving national development goals;
- Integrating fully adaptation into existing planning systems and prioritizing activities that will prevent negative impacts of climate change on development;
- Enhancing understanding of climate risks which can be addressed given economic, social and ecological constraints;
- Contributing to the learning process on approaches to manage multiple stress factors that act in complex ways across scales.
- Encouraging the provision of adequate and predictable funding support;
- Building confidence in agencies to support country-owned, country-driven process.

Support is indeed needed to completely embrace the opportunities that the NAP process offers. The LDCs will particularly welcome support for:

- Building and maintaining institutional, human and systemic capacity;
- Managing both climatic and socio-economic data and information. This include support for data collection, analysis, archiving, and dissemination;
- Accessing the necessary tools and methods and for building relevant skills to:
 - Undertake impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, including rapid participatory assessments;
 - Integrate adaptation in development planning systems;
 - Report on, monitor and evaluate adaptation efforts.
- Accessing affordable technologies for adaptation;
- Mobilizing sufficient financial resources for the entire process.

Ladies and Gentleman, I can assure you, on behalf of the LDCs that we are ready, with your support, to commit to:

- Providing the enabling environment for addressing adaptation, particularly in the context of the NAP process; and
- Revisiting our policies and programmes for fully integrating climate change adaptation.

As we do so, Ladies and Gentlemen, please rest assure that we will continue to share our experiences and lessons learned with you.

Thank you all for your attention.