

Resolution of the youth participants at “The Road to COP26-National Youth Consultative Forum on Climate Change” 4th February 2021

As participants in “The Road to COP26-National Youth Consultative Forum on Climate Change” on 4th February 2021 we, the undersigned, as youth aged between 18 and 35 years, call for the government of Malawi to address the following priority issues in the Nationally Determined Contributions, the National Adaptation Plan, and in the preparation of the Position Paper for COP26.

These priorities can be divided into overarching priorities and principles which are necessary across all sectors (section 1) and then sector-specific priorities (section 2).

1. Overarching priorities and principles

- Youth are already taking action on climate change, including environmental protection that contributes to mitigation and adaptation. To further capitalise on this commitment and enthusiasm, youth should be included in all initiatives on climate change to further the roles they are already actively playing in promoting awareness, supporting policy implementation and leading local action.
- Implementation gaps exist across a wide range of policies relevant to climate change and environmental protection (including waste management, forestry and water resources) need to be addressed, and youth can play a supporting role, including through awareness raising.
- Context-appropriate technology and knowledge needs to be available and accessible to all Malawians.
- Coordination and collaboration is essential and can happen in many dimensions, including between citizens and government, between national government and local government, and between government departments in different sectors.
- Investment and appropriate financing is essential to address root causes of vulnerability and promote adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change.
- More strategic land planning and resource management is needed to maximise environmental, ecological and economic benefits and ensure that fragile ecosystems, such as mountains and wetlands, are prioritised for protection as part of nature-based solutions to climate impacts. Urban areas should not be forgotten.

2. Sector-Specific Priorities

2.1 Energy

- Develop and bring in new technologies, including those reaching remote area, and best new tech, like slim paper solar cells
- Make renewable energy accessible and affordable: use approaches that are accessible to local communities, and are convenient for people to use, including decentralised approaches
- Integrate resilience and clean energy into agricultural and personal lifestyles

2.2 Waste Management

- Take action to promote adoption of proper waste disposal, including upscaling small-scale initiatives such as youth-led clean-up programmes and involving businesses in waste disposal efforts
- Scale up recycling efforts
- Improve enforcement of laws and implementation of policies, for example the thin plastics ban, and ensure private waste services providers are aware of, and comply with, regulations

2.3 Forestry (Reforestation and Afforestation)

- Incentivise reforestation and afforestation initiatives, including planting indigenous species in agronomically-appropriate locations; intensify programs that offer benefits for reforestation work
- Take a life cycle approach to reforestation and afforestation to ensure effective growth and management, including ensuring that seedlings have good survival and that existing forests are cared for
- Promote alternatives for the uses of wood, for example alternative sources of fuel for cooking and alternative materials for building
- Increase the use of strategic land use planning to maximize benefits for conservation and economic activities, including considering agroforestry, regeneration areas, and prioritizing vulnerable ecosystems; ensure that activities and species planted are appropriate to the location.
- Set aside 1% of urban areas as protected green space each year as part of nature-based solutions to climate impacts.

2.4 Climate-Smart Agriculture and Sustainable Water Management

- Promote effective land management and resource conserving practices, for example minimum or zero tillage, planting leguminous crops, agro-forestry, mulching and composting, integrated aquaculture-agriculture, crop rotation, targeted fertiliser use, using dambos for pasture, rainwater harvesting, balancing rainfed with irrigation farming where future water resource availability allows
- Integrate climate-smart agriculture with sustainable water management in policy as well as in practice
- Address uptake and increase adoption rates through context-specific practices and targeting messages through proven methods, for example lead farmer
- Develop long-term water management plans that provide universal access to clean water, safeguard aquatic ecosystems, and balance food and energy security needs

2.5 Education and changing Mindsets

- Design advocacy strategies to target and reach youth audiences using innovative means where necessary, for example drama groups, music, social media
- Design campaigns to blend awareness raising with capacity building for sustained action, for example every child plants a tree and then looks after it as it grows
- Promote awareness of laws and policies so that citizens understand laws, can support their implementation, and can demand accountability for change

2.6 Youth and Grassroots Engagement

- Enable meaningful, inclusive representation of youth and communities in decision-making processes (including through sensitising others to the important role that youth can play)
- Build capacity of emerging youth leaders, including in proposal writing and project management so that they can effectively translate their enthusiasm into effective action
- Improve financing of community-based initiatives, including those led by the youth, through decentralised fund allocation

2.7 Sustainable Livelihoods

- Create green jobs as the default; they should be the “new normal”
- Promote environmental conservation and resource-stewardship for sustainable natural resource-based livelihoods, including creating systems to support sustainable approaches to agriculture and agroforestry
- Design and implement pro-poor policies, for example including opportunities for increasing income-earning potential in rural areas (e.g. agricultural value chain development, market development), and addressing the root causes of poverty.

Signed By

Japhet Khendlo
Bernard Kankhono
Bitijula Alain
Charles Bakolo
Letwin Bamusi
Susan Banda
Lisa Banda
Hastings J. Banda
Daniel Banda
Justin Banda
Monica F. Chando
Joanne Chigwenembe
David Justice Chilongo
Samuel Chimowa
Kondwani Chimtsede
Simplex Chingota
Yamikani Chiphazi
Misheck Davis Chirwa
Mwayiwawo Chitsamba
Alice Chiwaya
Moses Fuleya
Elias Gaveta
Eunice Jere
Fanny Juma
Elizabeth Kacheche
Mercy Kadakoma
Albert Kamanga
Joseph Kaphesi
Richard Kaunga
Jessy Kawinga
Chimwemwe Kawoloka
Anderson Kayenda
Malango Kayira
Peter Khambadza
Tsork Kumcheza
Deus Kumcheza
Chisomo Kumwenda
Alinafe Lidamlendo
Emmanuel Likoya
Angellah Marian Lozo
Ivy Luhanga
Magdalene Memory Lungu
Timothy Mahoney

Luke Makuluni
Clement Makuwa
Tamandani Mazulu
Delilah Mbvundula
Mayamiko Mdala
Sharif Mgwira
Ruth Mhone
Collins Mittochi
Abel Mkulama
Edward Msiska
Aaron Kandiwo Mtaya
Kondwani S. Mubisa
Chawezi Munthali
Joy Hayley Munthali
Timothy Munthali
Vincent Musaiwa
Belita Mushani
Lonjezo L. Musopole
Brenda Mwale
Dorothy K. Mwale
Lester Ray Nanjala
Maggie Ngwira
Henry Mazinga Ngwira
Amiton Ngwira
Hendricks Nkhata
Zirare Phillimon Phiri
Moses Pindulani
Joseph Kenson Sakala
David Samikwa
Prince Sibanda
Brian Simbeye
Gomezgani Simwaka
Teuka Tembo
Michael Thamala
Robert Tsutsu
Vanessa Warren
Chifundo Zingunde
Ulemu Zulu