



# MALAWI NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

2026-2029








# **MALAŴI NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP**

## 2026-2029



The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a global initiative that promotes transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance. Malawi joined OGP in 2013 to strengthen good governance and align with the Malawi 2063 Vision. The 2026–2029 National Action Plan (NAP) focuses on improving public service delivery, accountability, and management of public resources through five priority areas: Anti-Corruption, Digital Governance, Natural Resources, Climate and Environment, and Fiscal Openness. Building on achievements from previous plans, the new NAP seeks to address governance challenges through a more inclusive and longer implementation period.

# FOREWORD

The Republic of Malaŵi continues its journey toward becoming an inclusively wealthy, self-reliant, and resilient nation as envisioned under Malaŵi 2063. As a country, our progress is grounded in people-centered development, the strengthening of governance systems, and the shared belief that transparency, accountability, and integrity are central to long-term national transformation. Guided by these aspirations, this National Action Plan (NAP) sets out the reforms that will support a more responsive, efficient, and inclusive public sector that will better serve the citizens of Malaŵi.

The 2026-2029 Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan builds on the implementation of the previous cycles. It places emphasis on strategic areas essential to Malaŵi's progress - including anti-corruption, natural resource governance, fiscal openness, digital transformation and inclusion, and environmental and climate accountability. The plan also recognizes the importance of Parliament, oversight institutions, local governments, non-state actors, and citizens as critical partners in advancing openness and ensuring that reforms translate into meaningful results.

In developing this National Action Plan, Malaŵi reaffirmed its longstanding commitment to open governance through a consultative and evidence-driven process. The plan reflects the views and priorities of institutions and stakeholders across the country. It strengthens the foundations for long-term reforms and positions Malaŵi to respond effectively to governance challenges while harnessing opportunities for innovation, transparency, and citizen engagement.

The Government expresses its appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed to the co-creation of this National Action Plan. Your continued partnership remains vital to sustaining Malaŵi's progress on transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.

Let us move forward with a shared purpose and collective responsibility as we work to implement this National Action Plan for the benefit of present and future generations.



Justin Adack K. Saidi, PhD

**CHIEF SECRETARY**

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACB	Anti-Corruption Bureau
AGD	Accountant General's Department
AI	Artificial Intelligence
BO	Beneficial Ownership
BOD	Beneficial Ownership Disclosure
CCJP	Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace
CCSS	Centre for Civil Society Strengthening
CDA	Community Development Agreement
CEPA	Center for Environmental Policy and Advocacy
CHRR	Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation
CISONECC	Civil Society Network on Climate Change
CRIPC	Companies, Registrations, and Intellectual Property Centre
CoST	Construction Infrastructure Transparency Initiative of Malaŵi
CSAT	Centre for Social Accountability and Transparency
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DoF	Department of Forestry
DRG	Department of Registrar General
ECAMA	Economics Association of Malaŵi
ESB	Enterprise Service Bus
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
FEDOMA	Federation of Disability Organisations in Malaŵi
FIA	Financial Intelligence Authority
FOCUS	Foundation for Community Support Services
GWAN	Government Wide Area Network
IBAM	Indigenous Businesspersons Association of Malaŵi
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTAM	ICT Association of Malaŵi
IRM	Independent Reporting Mechanism
MACRA	Malaŵi Communications Regulatory Authority
MALGA	Malaŵi Local Government Association
MAMICO	Malaŵi Mining Investment Company
MANEPS	Malaŵi National Electronic Procurement System
MBRS	Malaŵi Business Registration System
MCCCI	Malaŵi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
MCM	Media Council of Malaŵi
MDA	Ministry, Department and Agency
MEC	Malaŵi Electoral Commission
MEJN	Malaŵi Economic Justice Network
MHRC	Malaŵi Human Rights Commission
MIP-1	Malaŵi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan
MLS	Malaŵi Law Society
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
MISPA	Malaŵi Internet Service Providers Association
MMRA	Mining and Minerals Regulatory Authority
MoFEPD	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization
MoGCDSW	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability, and Social Welfare
MoICT	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology
MoJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MoYSC	Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture
MP	Member of Parliament

MRA	Malaŵi Revenue Authority
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
MTDS	Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy
MW2063	Malaŵi 2063 Vision
MWEITI	Malaŵi Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
NAO	National Audit Office
NAP	National Action Plan
NCCMP	National Climate Change Management Policy
NCIC	National Construction Industry Council
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGOCCR	NGO Coalition on Child Rights
NGOGCN	NGO Gender Coordination Network
NICE	National Initiative for Civic Education
NRJN	Natural Resource Justice Network
NSC	National Steering Committee
OCDS	Open Contracting Data Standard
ODPOD	Office of the Director of Public Officers' Declarations
OGP	Open Government Partnership
OoO	Office of the Ombudsman
OPC	Office of the President and Cabinet
ORPP	Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act, 2022
PoC	Point of Contact
PPDA	Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority
PPPC	Public Private Partnership Commission
RBM	Reserve Bank of Malaŵi
RPP	Registrar of Political Parties
SBD	Standard Bidding Document
SOE	State-Owned Enterprises
SWF	Sovereign Wealth Fund
TWG	Technical Working Group
YAS	Youth and Society
YONECO	Youth Net and Counselling

**1**

# **INTRODUCTION**

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Since 1994, when the Republic of Malaŵi adopted its Constitution, the Government has demonstrated commitment to the tenets of good governance by promoting transparency, accountability, citizen engagement, and the rule of law. Among many tools at its disposal, in 2013, the Government joined the global Open Government Partnership (OGP) to enhance the realization of the constitutional principles outlined above. The OGP is a unique partnership of state and non-state actors founded and driven by a unity of purpose to promote transparent, participatory, inclusive, and accountable governance. Under OGP, parties co-create and co-implement commitments to achieve OGP principles in policy and legislative processes and programming.

## 1.2 The Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Malawi joined OGP in 2013, becoming part of a global partnership that now includes more than 70 national members and 150 local members. Through Enabler 2: Effective Governance Systems and Institutions, it promotes effective and efficient governance systems and institutions with strict adherence to the rule of law. MW2063 and OGP share complementary goals centered on transparency, accountability, and inclusive development.

## 1.3 Alignment with Malawi 2063 Vision

Since 2013, Malaŵi has implemented two NAPs, the first from 2016 to 2018 and the second from 2023 to 2025. The first two NAPs were each implemented for a period of two years. However, this NAP will be implemented over a period of four years from 2026 to 2029.



Stakeholder engagement in advancing transparent, accountable, and participatory governance in Malaŵi.

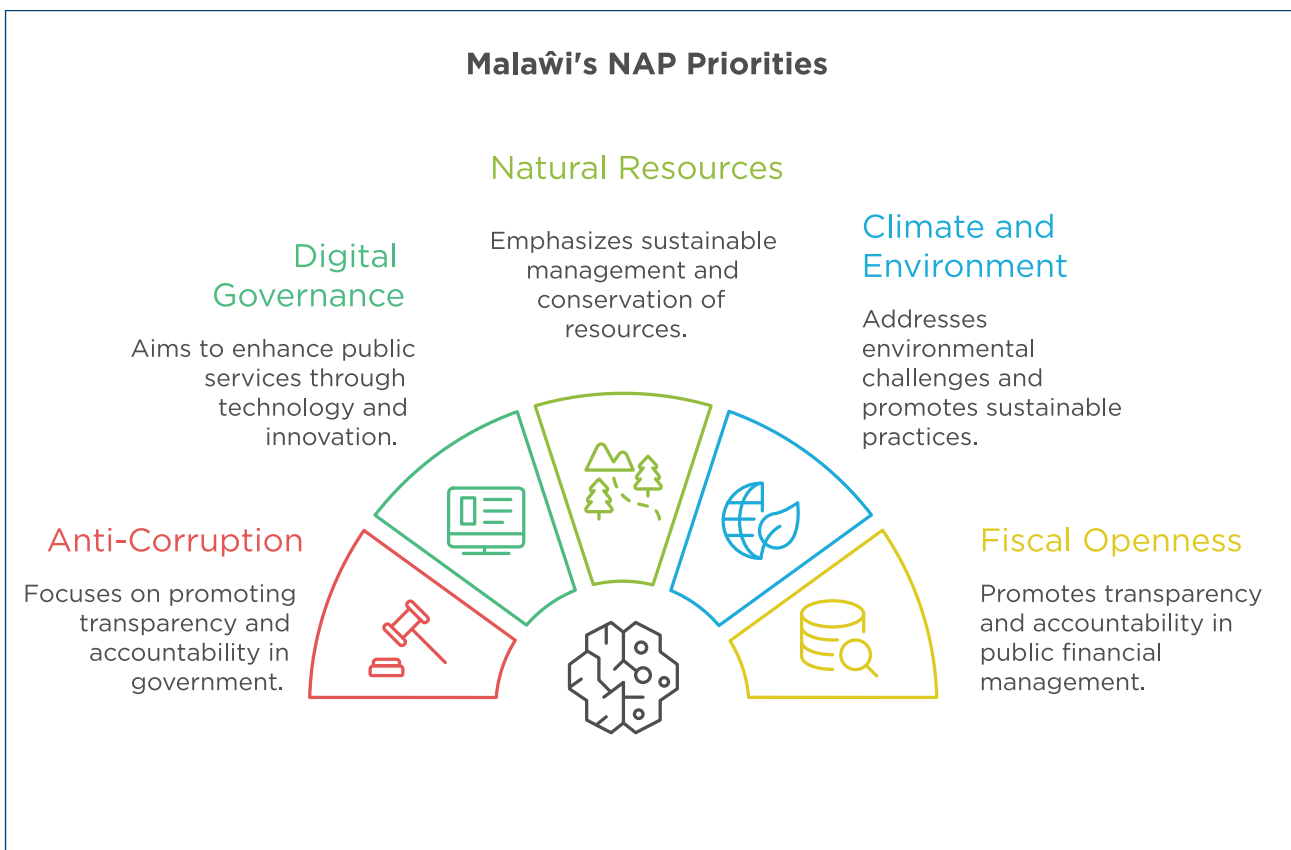
This NAP is formulated against a challenging backdrop of economic and environmental shocks. In recent years, Malaŵi has faced global and national challenges linked to climate change, geopolitical changes and conflicts. Natural disasters, political changes, and conflicts have had a noticeable impact on the global economy, and Malaŵi has not been spared. The result is that the changes have exerted enormous pressure on the country's economy, development, and the well-being of the people.

## 1.4 Malawi's OGP Journey

The formulation of the NAP considered the aforementioned factors, underscoring the Government's commitment to mitigating these challenges through the implementation of the OGP framework and principles. The NAP is responding to both global and national challenges facing the country and seeks to improve public service delivery systems, enhancing accountability, integrity, and prudence in managing public resources for the benefit of the people of Malaŵi.

## 1.5 Rationale for the 2026–2029 NAP

Currently, there are nine OGP policy areas at the global level, namely: Anti-Corruption, Civic Space, Climate and Environment, Digital Governance, Fiscal Openness, Inclusion, Justice, Public Participation, and Right to Information. In this NAP, Malaŵi has prioritized five policy areas. It has carried forward Anti-Corruption, Digital Governance and Natural Resources from the 2023-2025 NAP and has added Climate and Environment and Fiscal Openness.



# 2

## **ANALYSIS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 2023-2025 NAP**

# 2.0 ANALYSIS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 2023-2025 NAP

## 2.1 Overview of the 2023-2025 NAP

During the 2023-2025 implementation period, there were eleven policy areas at the global level, namely: Open Parliament, Anti-Corruption, Right to Information, Digital Governance, Fiscal Openness, Gender, Civic Space, Public Service Delivery, Justice, Marginalized Communities, and Natural Resources. Malaŵi prioritized and domesticated five policy areas, namely Anti-Corruption, Right to Information, Natural Resources, Digital Governance, and Open Parliament. Malaŵi made significant strides in all policy areas, such as:

- (a) **Anti-Corruption:** Adoption of Beneficial Ownership (BO) Regulations; Enactment of the *Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act, 2024*; Development of the Open Contracting Data Standards (OCDS) Portal and its integration with the Malaŵi National Electronic Procurement System (MANEPS).
- (b) **Right to Information:** Operationalization of the *Political Parties Act, 2018* through the recruitment of the Registrar of Political Parties (RPP), and the creation of a cost centre, to facilitate direct funding; a multi-stakeholder task force set up to develop regulations on political party funding.
- (c) **Digital Governance:** Adoption and operationalization of the National Digitalization Policy, (2023-2028); Enactment of the *Data Protection Act, 2024*; Nationwide digitalization and improved connectivity across public institutions; Construction of the Lilongwe Data Centre.



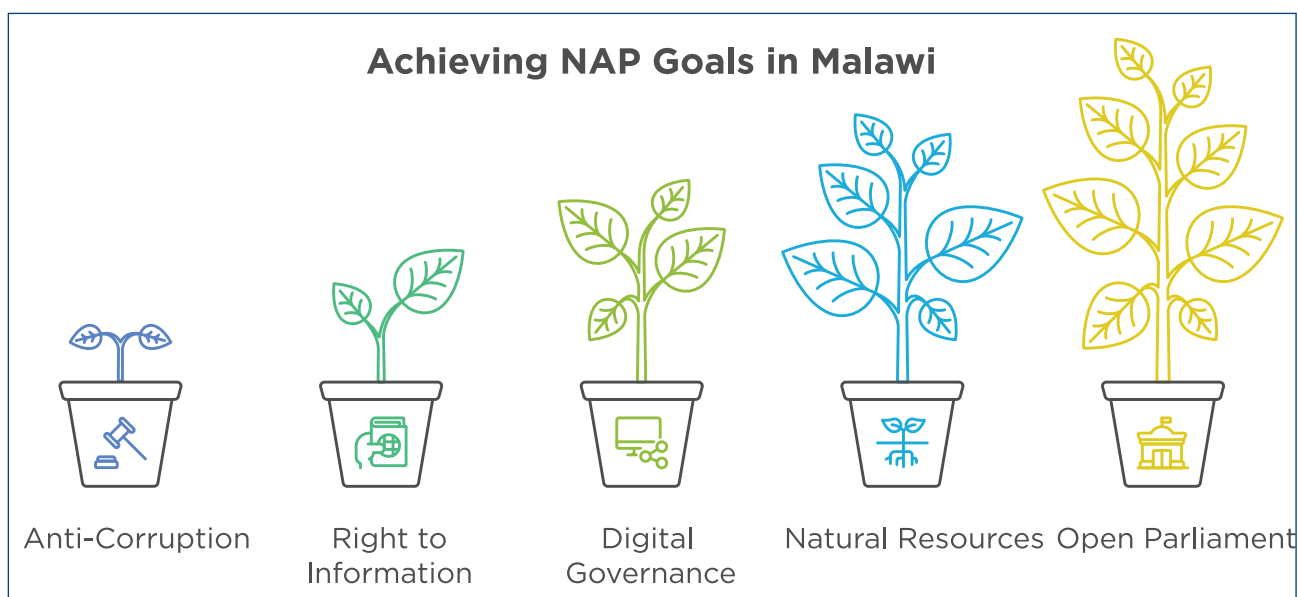
Key milestones achieved under the 2023-2025 Open Government Partnership National Action Plan in Malaŵi.

(d) **Natural Resources:** Enactment of the *Mines and Minerals Act, 2023*; the establishment of the Mining and Minerals Regulatory Authority (MMRA) and the Malaŵi Mining Investment Company (MAMICO); Operationalization of the Mining Cadastre Portal.

(e) **Open Parliament:** Adopted a process for Loan Authorization Bills which are now presented to the Budget Committee of Parliament; Increased access to information on public debt deliberations via Parliament TV, which broadcasts parliamentary hearings on multiple platforms; Production of a Situational Analysis Report on external debt.

## 2.2 Challenges and Lessons Learned

However, there were financial and design-related challenges that affected the effective implementation of the 2023-2025 NAP. These included limited funding to OGP initiatives, limited general awareness of the OGP framework, a weak contextual monitoring and evaluation framework, and the inadequate implementation of two years for the NAP. This NAP has duly considered and addressed these challenges.



From paper to Malawi National Electronic Procurement System (MANePS)



Malawi and the United Nations Forge a Renewed Partnership for National Transformation

# 3

## **FORMULATION PROCESS OF THE 2026–2029 NAP**

# 3.0 FORMULATION PROCESS OF THE 2026-2029 NAP

## 3.1 Participatory and Inclusive Process

This NAP was developed over a period of five months from January to May 2025. Between January and February, consultations were conducted using key informant interviews to develop this NAP. A validation workshop took place in April. The final draft was finalized and submitted in June. Malaŵi held general elections in September 2025 and a year of potential implementation was lost due to the electoral process. As a result, the NAP was revised and submitted again.

The consultation and development processes of the 2026-2029 NAP were facilitated by an independent consultant familiar with the governance and development landscape of Malaŵi.

## 3.2 Consultation and Validation Process

Development of this NAP has been a highly consultative process across sectors and actors with tacit knowledge of the five prioritized OGP policy areas. Respondents were drawn from government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and non-state actors (Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the private sector), most of whom have been privy to the implementation of the second NAP and have knowledge and experience of OGP.

## 3.3 Timeframe of the NAP

This four-year NAP will run from January 2026 to December 2029. This gives ample time for achieving commitments that require a longer period for implementation.



Stakeholder consultations during the development and validation of the Malaŵi OGP National Action Plan 2026-2029.

# 4

## **PRIORITY POLICY AREAS OF THE 2026–2029 NAP**

# 4.0 PRIORITY POLICY AREAS OF THE 2026-2029 NAP

Building from the 2023-2025 NAP, Malaŵi has prioritized five policy areas that will enhance and improve the Government's governance efforts in ensuring openness, transparency, accountability and participation of the civil society and citizens in inclusive governance. The five policy areas are further disaggregated into eleven envisaged reforms as presented in the table below.

<b>Anti-Corruption</b>	
1	Operationalization of beneficial ownership disclosures
2	Promoting transparency in public procurement processes
3	Transparency and disclosure of political party funding
<b>Natural Resources</b>	
4	Establishment of a Sovereign Wealth Fund
5	Adoption of Community Development Agreements in the mining sector
<b>Fiscal Openness</b>	
6	Implementation of domestic debt procedures for contracting and utilization
7	Creating strong linkages between parliamentary functions and constituencies through access to parliamentary information platforms and processes
<b>Digital Governance</b>	
8	Promotion of digital literacy, rights and inclusion
9	Enhancing utilization of e-Government systems
10	Enhancing access to public data/ information through e-Government platforms
<b>Climate and Environment</b>	
11	Open and accountable climate action

**Table 1:** Malaŵi's 2026-2029 NAP Policy Areas and Envisaged Reforms



Malawi Open Government Partnership (OGP), Malawi National Steering Committee (NSC) stakeholders meeting.

**5**

**COMMITMENTS**



# ***Anti-Corruption***



## 5.1 Anti-Corruption

<b>Commitment 1: Operationalization of beneficial ownership disclosures</b>			
Enhance transparency by enforcing BO disclosure laws and integrating registries and systems to track true company ownership			
<b>Commitment Leads</b>	<p>Companies, Registrations, and Intellectual Property Centre (CRIPC) <i>(formerly the Department of Registrar General (DRG))</i> Registrar General</p> <p>Malaŵi Economic Justice Network (MEJN) Executive Director</p>		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDA)</li> <li>▪ Malaŵi Revenue Authority (MRA)</li> <li>▪ Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)</li> <li>▪ National Construction Industry Council (NCIC)</li> <li>▪ Office of the Ombudsman (OoO)</li> <li>▪ Public Private Partnership Commission (PPPC)</li> <li>▪ National Assembly</li> <li>▪ Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC)</li> <li>▪ Judiciary</li> <li>▪ Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA)</li> <li>▪ Office of the Director of Public Officers' Declarations (ODPOD)</li> <li>▪ Malaŵi Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (MWEITI)</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC)</li> <li>▪ Centre for Social Accountability and Transparency (CSAT)</li> <li>▪ Youth And Society (YAS)</li> <li>▪ Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR)</li> <li>▪ Malaŵi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI)</li> <li>▪ Construction Infrastructure Transparency Initiative of Malaŵi (CoST Malaŵi)</li> <li>▪ Federation of Disability Organisations in Malaŵi (FEDOMA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indigenous Businesspersons Association of Malaŵi (IBAM)</li> <li>▪ Malaŵi Law Society (MLS)</li> </ul>
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 - December 2029		

## Problem Definition

### 1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The commitment seeks to address corruption in public procurement processes and service delivery. BO disclosure is limited or non-existent across various business sectors, including the extractive industries, making it difficult to track the actual owners of businesses and assets.

Often, beneficiaries of public procurement are masked in private entities and may include individuals that have inside information, conflicts of interest and, by law and good ethical conduct, are not supposed to directly benefit from public procurement due to the positions they hold in the public service or political space.

This lack of transparency fuels corruption and undermines public trust. While institutions like PPDA, CRIPC, and others have taken steps to integrate procurement and business registration systems, fragmentation persists. This limits enforcement, delays BO verification and compromises oversight. Further, citizens and watchdog groups struggle to access and verify BO information due to cumbersome systems and limited institutional capacity.

### 2. What are the causes of the problem?

The causes of this problem include:

- (a) Absence of specific legislative provisions:** There is no law requiring mandatory re-registration of companies. It is still in draft form and requires passing the Bill to enforce mandatory re-registration including regular updates of beneficial owners of businesses and companies engaged in public procurement. On the other hand, synergies between BO regulations and asset recovery processes are inadequate, making it difficult to reclaim illicitly acquired wealth.
- (b) Limited integration of BO registries across key sectors:** The MANEPS and the Malaŵi Business Registration System (MBRS) are integrated to facilitate the publication of BO information. However, there is limited integration of BO registries across key sectors such as the extractive sector and other industries, leading to fragmented data and inefficiencies. In addition, coordination among governance institutions responsible for implementing BO regulations is weak, leading to inconsistencies in enforcement.
- (c) Institutional capacity gaps of oversight and governance agencies:** There are human, technical, and financial capacity gaps at institutions, such as the FIA, ACB, and CRIPC, to better understand and enforce the rule of law to strengthen investment oversight.
- (d) Cumbersome process of accessing information and improved verification systems:** When seeking BO details, it is difficult to determine who owns a contract. For example, extracting digital information on beneficial owners upon request is a complex and time-consuming process. Additionally, the system is not user-friendly, and this has contributed to the reluctance of companies to re-register, which has been compounded by the absence of specific legislation to do so. Some companies have shown resistance to re

register because there are no incentives or sanctions for companies to register their BO information, posing a compliance challenge. Furthermore, whilst updates have been made to Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs) to incorporate BO requirements, accessing this information remains cumbersome.

**(e) Underutilization of PPDA Portal:** The PPDA portal is not fully utilized to enforce BO regulations, resulting in limited transparency in procurement processes.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Earlier NAP commitments laid the foundation for beneficial ownership disclosure (BOD) through regulations. Currently, MANEPS and the MRA system are all integrated with the MBRS. In addition, an Open Ownership assessment was done on the effectiveness of BODs in Malaŵi, and resources have been secured to review the laws and upgrade the MBRS.

Beneficial Ownership Regulations under the *Companies Act, 2013* were published in 2022. These Regulations lay a foundation for other regulations on BO.

#### 2. What lessons have been learned from the previous NAP?

Implementation of the 2023-2025 NAP revealed that legal and technical reforms alone are insufficient to ensure effective BO disclosure. While regulations were developed and digital integration between the MBRS and MANEPS began, enforcement and compliance remained weak due to limited institutional coordination and low public awareness. It became clear that harmonizing legal frameworks across agencies, ensuring adequate funding for enforcement, and simplifying user access to BO information was important to achieving meaningful reform. Stronger partnerships with civil society and the private sector also proved valuable in driving awareness and monitoring compliance.

#### 3. What solution are you proposing?

The NAP proposes implementing the following reforms that will operationalize BODs.

- (a) Update/review BO regulations** to align them with international standards on BO.
- (b) Strengthen the institutional setup of the DRG** to coordinate and enforce the BO system by operationalizing the Companies Registration and Intellectual Property Centre Bill, 2025 to make the DRG an autonomous entity.
- (c) Establish information-sharing standards** for system integration.
- (d) Finalize the development of the beneficial ownership module** and guidelines within the MBRS.
- (e) Carry out proactive disclosure, periodic review, and awareness** to facilitate access to information: Publish BO information, specifically on OCDS portal, to enhance transparency and public monitoring. Open contracting can help publish information about the beneficial owners of companies awarded

contracts. This approach allows the public to easily identify any potential fraud or irregularity in the procurement process.

**(f) Enhance effective monitoring mechanisms, partnerships and coordination** to ensure that BOD commitments are being implemented effectively, progress is being tracked and compliance and accountability are ensured. This requires partnering with oversight entities such as the ACB, OoO, Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and CSOs to assist in monitoring, advocacy and awareness. Collaboration with anti-corruption agencies and international organizations, such as Open Contracting Partnership, is crucial for strengthening BO transparency and peer-learning. Frequent roundtable meetings and information sharing between all stakeholders (PPDA, MRA, ACB, CRIPC, PPPC, etc.) are essential to ensure smooth coordination and to address delays.

**(g) Sanction non-compliant companies** by enforcing penalties, such as debarment from public procurement for non compliance, to compel companies to re-register.

These reforms build on existing infrastructure but go further by establishing clear mandates, timelines, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance and coordination.

#### 4. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

This commitment aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- (a) Fully implemented and enforced BO laws.
- (b) Created a user-friendly, integrated and publicly accessible BO registry.
- (c) Improved inter-agency data sharing and monitoring.
- (d) Strengthened institutional capacity at the CRIPC.
- (e) Increased public awareness and compliance among companies.
- (f) Enhanced accountability for non-compliance through sanctions, audits, and oversight.
- (g) Ensured BO data is available for use in procurement screening and public oversight.

These reforms will lead to greater transparency and accountability in the award of contracts, prevent hidden conflicts of interest and deter illicit financial flows.

#### Commitment Analysis

1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?

MW2063 acknowledges that corruption in the country has contributed to poor public finance management that has resulted in the abuse of resources that could have been used to advance Malaŵi's development agenda. The national vision aspires to continue efforts to curb corruption and improve public finance management while harnessing the gains from improvements made in the rule of law. Through *Enabler 2: Effective Governance Systems and Institutions*, Malaŵi seeks to strengthen openness, transparency and accountability in public and private institutions; reduce and eradicate corruption. This is expected to be realized by ensuring that corruption combating agencies and

	<p>governance watchdogs are guaranteed the requisite independence and adequate resources necessary for executing their mandates efficiently and effectively. Relevant institutions should be equipped with the capacity to detect cases and investigate allegations of unjust enrichment, abuse of office and corruption.</p> <p>The target is to rank top 20 in the world on both the corruption and doing business indicators by 2063. In 2019, Malaŵi ranked 31 out of 100 on the Corruption Perception Index and in 2025, it ranked 34 out of 100 meaning that Malaŵi ranks 107 out of 180 countries.<sup>1</sup></p>	
2. How will the commitment promote transparency?	<p>The commitment promotes transparency by mandating the public disclosure of BO information and publishing it through the OCDS portal. It also upgrades digital systems like the MBRS to facilitate access and retrieval of ownership data, making it easier for government, civil society and citizens to track who benefits from public contracts.</p>	
3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	<p>Accountability will be improved through regular audits, mandatory reporting and stronger institutional mandates for enforcement. Companies that fail to disclose BO information will face penalties, including debarment from public procurement. Public officials will be held responsible for failing to enforce rules, and lifestyle audits will be used to uncover hidden gains. Collaborative monitoring platforms with CSOs and oversight agencies will ensure continued compliance and accountability.</p>	
4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	<p>Citizen participation will be fostered through awareness campaigns and engagement with civil society partners. CSOs will participate in advocacy, oversight, and public monitoring efforts, while the government will be expected to publish regular updates and maintain open channels for feedback. This creates space for citizens to both shape and scrutinize reforms.</p>	
<b>Commitment Planning</b>		
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
Enhance the regulatory framework to regulate BO disclosure	Beneficial Ownership Regulations, 2022 updated/ reviewed	December 2026
	Beneficial Ownership Regulations, 2022, and the Public Procurement and Disposal Regulations synchronized	December 2026
	BO laws implemented and enforced	December 2029

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bing.com/search?q=Malaŵi+rank+on+corruption+perception+index&FORM=AWRE>

	<i>Access to Information Act, 2016</i> enforced to ensure that BO information is publicly accessible	December 2029
Enhance usage of BO digital platform	BO Registry and information system upgraded and integrated to enhance access to information for key actors that use the information related to BO	July 2026
	PPDA Portal awareness and utilization increased	December 2029
Autonomy of the Department of the Registrar General	Companies Registration and Intellectual Property Centre Bill, 2025 operationalized	December 2026
Enhance MBRS BO module to facilitate easy access to BO information	BO information on OCDS published	December 2029
Enhance coordination and collaboration	Periodic joint monitoring meetings between PPDA, CRIPC, MRA, Internal Procurement and Disposal of Assets Committees, Malaŵi Human Rights Commission, and CSOs conducted	December 2029
	Desk officers in key MDAs designated for improved coordination and efficiency	July 2026
Sanction business entities for non-compliance of BO requirements.	Business entities debarred from public procurement for non-compliance.	December 2029
Strengthen synergies with asset recovery mechanisms	BODs linked with asset recovery frameworks to enhance accountability	July 2026
Increase public awareness and engagement	Awareness increased among the public, private sector and government agencies about the importance of BO regulations and compliance requirements	December 2029
Update MBRS Information	All companies re-registered	June 2026

<b>Commitment 2: Promoting transparency in public procurement processes</b>			
Adopt open contracting to publish procurement data, improve oversight, and reduce corruption across the procurement cycle			
<b>Commitment Leads</b>	Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority Director General  Centre for Social Accountability and Transparency Executive Director		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MRA</li> <li>▪ ACB</li> <li>▪ CIRAM</li> <li>▪ OoO</li> <li>▪ PPC</li> <li>▪ National Assembly</li> <li>▪ OPC</li> <li>▪ Judiciary</li> <li>▪ CRIPC</li> <li>▪ FIA</li> <li>▪ MoJCA</li> <li>▪ Malaŵi Human Rights Commission (MHRC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CISONCEC</li> <li>▪ MEJN</li> <li>▪ YAS</li> <li>▪ CHRR</li> <li>▪ MCCCCI</li> <li>▪ CoST Malaŵi</li> <li>▪ Centre for Civil Society Strengthening (CCSS)</li> <li>▪ Section30</li> <li>▪ FEDOMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IBAM</li> <li>▪ Malaŵi Building and Civil Engineering Contractors and Allied Traders Association (MABCATA)</li> </ul>
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 - December 2029		
<b>Problem Definition</b>			
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>Malaŵi continues to face systemic corruption and inefficiencies in public procurement, a sector that uses significant public resources. Procurement processes are often opaque, fragmented and vulnerable to political interference and insider dealing. Numerous public procurement entities operate with minimal coordination, allowing businesses with poor performance records or conflicts of interest to secure repeat contracts across government institutions. Information related to procurement at all stages of the procurement cycle is not proactively disclosed, published or integrated across key platforms.</p> <p>Furthermore, the underutilization of the PPDA portal, limited access to real-time procurement data and the absence of clear accountability mechanisms have undermined oversight. Weak enforcement of conflict-of-interest disclosures, irregularities in the evaluation of bids, lack of real-time monitoring mechanisms and limited enforcement of existing legislation to align with open contracting best practices, have all fueled unfairness and corruption.</p>			

## 2. What lessons have been learned from the previous NAP?

Experience from the previous NAP demonstrated that mainstreaming open contracting requires more than system upgrades. It requires institutional shifts towards proactive disclosure. The integration of the OCDS portal within MANEPS and the inclusion of BO information in procurement documents were major milestones but uptake was only across selective MDAs. Moreover, without strong protection for whistleblowers, reporting corruption remained risky. These lessons highlight the need for systematic capacity building, legal enforcement of disclosure obligations, enhanced civic monitoring mechanisms, and an enabling environment for safe reporting.

## 3. What are the causes of the problem?

The root causes of this problem include:

- (a) Maladministration as a root source of corruption:** There is a lack of consequences or sanctions for non compliance. In general, duty bearers refrain from performing their lawful duties in terms of supervision and disciplinary roles of controlling officers on their subordinates; non disclosure of conflict of interest in procurement processes; limited exercise of their mandates compromising oversight and enforcement roles by parliamentary committees; and politicization of issues. It has also been observed over time that newly elected regimes in their first years in government tend to recruit particular groups of people and individuals in preparation for them to facilitate corrupt dealings or maladministration.
- (b) Frequent or normalized use of exclusionary procurement methods,** especially restricted tender and single source, which provide opportunities for various procurement malfeasance and in recent times have proved to be the most effective ways through which procurement monopolies have been created and have also catalyzed the phenomenon of state capture by business elements.
- (c) Limited coordination among MDAs' Internal Procurement and Disposal of Assets Committees** to track the record of suppliers and avoid contracting blacklisted ones.
- (d) Bureaucracy within the procurement process** by having multiple vetting entities delays the timely completion of the procurement process. This also creates a risk for corruption.
- (e) Absence of a law to protect whistleblowers,** or people who report corruption, renders the reporting of corrupt and fraudulent acts risky to anyone that has valuable information on corrupt practices.
- (f) Omission of the private sector under the lifestyle audit** in the *Corrupt Practices Act, 2014*.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

The PPDA has taken initial steps to enhance procurement transparency, including incorporating beneficial ownership disclosures into SBDs and including an OCDS

portal in the MANEPS. PPDA has also trained pilot institutions on how they can use the MANEPS to promote oversight and enforcement. Additionally, a Special Law Commission has drafted a Whistleblowers Protection Bill.

## 2. What lessons have been learned from the previous NAP?

The 2023-2025 NAP showed that operationalizing political party financing reforms is

## 3. What solution are you proposing?

Malaŵi commits to advancing open contracting reforms that standardize, digitize and publish procurement data across the entire contract lifecycle. This commitment will:

- (a) **Fully adopt the OCDS** for all major procurement processes.
- (b) **Ensure full utilization of the MANEPS** to ensure timely publication of procurement plans, bidding opportunities, awarded contracts and implementation progress.
- (c) **Strengthen institutional capacity and coordination** between the PPDA, MRA, ACB, FIA and ODPOD.
- (d) **Empower citizens and civil society to access procurement information and follow procurement processes** through the OCDS portal, feedback channels, and awareness campaigns.
- (e) **Enact the Whistleblower Act** to protect those who report corruption or fraud , to enhance reporting and oversight.
- (f) **Review the *Corrupt Practices Act, 2014***, to include the private sector in the lifestyle audit.
- (g) **Adopt the lifestyle audit manual** that covers both the public and private sectors.
- (h) **Build synergies with asset declaration and recovery laws.**

These reforms aim to open the entire procurement value chain, ensuring that public procurement is fair, transparent, efficient, and accessible to all.

## 4. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

By implementing these reforms, Malaŵi will achieve:

- (a) Institutionalized open contracting practices across MDAs.
- (b) Improved reliability and completeness of public procurement information.
- (c) Strengthened real-time monitoring of public contracts.
- (d) Enhanced citizen and CSO participation in procurement oversight.
- (e) Reduced procurement-related corruption and inefficiencies.
- (f) Increased trust in public institutions through visible improvements in how contracts are awarded and managed.

These reforms will improve value for money, public service delivery, promote efficient utilization of resources, increase foreign investments, and reduce incidents of corruption, thereby enhancing public trust and institutional credibility.

<b>Commitment Analysis</b>		
1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?	This commitment contributes to <i>Enabler 2: Effective Governance Systems and Institutions</i> under MW2063, which emphasizes accountability, transparency and public sector performance. MW2063 recognizes that corruption and weak procurement processes divert resources from national priorities. By promoting open contracting, Malaŵi strengthens its ability to fight corruption, improve service delivery and ensure public funds are used responsibly and visibly. These reforms also contribute to the long term goal of positioning Malaŵi among the top 20 countries globally on corruption and business environment indicators.	
2. How will the commitment promote transparency?	The commitment will promote transparency by requiring proactive disclosure and systematic publication of procurement information through the MANEPS, including procurement plans, bids, evaluations, awards, and contract performance. Adoption of the OCDS will ensure that procurement information is open and machine-readable, facilitating real-time access and analysis by citizens, civil society, and oversight institutions.	
3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Accountability will be fostered through clear rules for publishing procurement data, monitoring tools, and enforcement mechanisms that penalize non compliance. Regular joint monitoring sessions between oversight bodies (e.g. ACB, PPDA, MRA) and civil society will track implementation progress and identify areas for corrective action.	
4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	The commitment includes provisions to engage civil society and citizens in procurement monitoring. Through the OCDS portal, feedback channels, and awareness campaigns, citizens will be empowered to follow procurement processes, report irregularities, and participate in procurement activities. The government will also collaborate with CSOs to co design monitoring tools and support community engagement in tracking contract performance, especially at the local level.	
<b>Commitment Planning</b>		
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
Enhance the regulatory framework to regulate open contracting	<i>Corrupt Practices Act</i> amended to incorporate the private sector under the lifestyle audit	December 2026

	Whistleblowers Act enacted	December 2026
	Synergies among asset declaration , lifestyle audit and recovery mechanisms strengthened	December 2029
Implement lifestyle audits in the public and private sectors	Lifestyle audits in the public and private sectors enforced to complement beneficial ownership disclosures and detect illicit financial gains	December 2029
Strengthen investment and contractual oversight	Institutional capacity and coordination of PPDA, MRA, ACB, FIA, and ODPOD improved	July 2027

<b>Commitment 3: Transparency and disclosure of political party funding</b>			
Strengthen regulation and public reporting of political party finances to ensure transparency and accountability in political party funding			
<b>Commitment Leads</b>	Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) Registrar of Political Parties  Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation Executive Director		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MRA</li> <li>▪ National Assembly</li> <li>▪ MoJCA</li> <li>▪ National Audit Office (NAO)</li> <li>▪ ACB</li> <li>▪ FIA</li> <li>▪ Malaŵi Electoral Commission (MEC)</li> <li>▪ OPC</li> <li>▪ Reserve Bank of Malaŵi (RBM)</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Decentralization (MoFEPD)</li> <li>▪ OoO</li> <li>▪ MHRC</li> <li>▪ Accountant General Department (AGD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD)</li> <li>▪ MEJN</li> <li>▪ Corruption and Rights Watch (CORWA)</li> <li>▪ CSAT</li> <li>▪ Initiative for Development Effectiveness and Accountability (IDEA)</li> <li>▪ NGO Gender Coordination Network (NGOGCN)</li> <li>▪ OXFAM Malaŵi</li> <li>▪ Chisankho Watch</li> <li>▪ Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Malaŵi</li> <li>▪ FEDOMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commercial Banks</li> <li>▪ MLS</li> <li>▪ Media Council of Malaŵi (MCM)</li> </ul>
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 - December 2029		
<b>Problem Definition</b>			
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>Political party financing in Malaŵi presents significant challenges that undermine democratic governance and fuel systemic corruption. The ORPP was established in 2018 and became operational in 2024. The ORPP has struggled to access timely and complete information on political party financing due to the absence of implementing regulations for the <i>Political Parties Act, 2018</i>, limited institutional capacity and weak enforcement of disclosure obligations.</p>			

## 2. What are the causes of the problem?

The root causes of this problem include:

### **(a) Difficulty in accessing information on political party financing by the ORPP:**

While the RPP is given powers in Section 6(2)(b) of the *Political Parties Act, 2018* to ensure publication of audited annual accounts of political parties, the RPP has difficulties accessing information on how much eligible parties receive because the ORPP is left out in the initial phases of disbursement of the funds and only comes in later in the process. The process that the RPP has to follow in pursuit of accountability of public funding for parties is cyclic and cumbersome. Therefore, the RPP has to struggle to access information on how much political parties received, before presenting the information to the Auditor General for auditing the parties' accounts and deciding and recommending on whether parties should be given the next tranche or not, based on how the funding was utilized. This is in contrast to what happens in other countries, such as Kenya and South Africa, where public political party finances are channeled directly through the ORPP, which makes the information on political party funding readily available to the RPP.

### **(b) Arbitrary enforcement mechanisms and a lack of a structured allocation formula:**

Section 40(2) of the Constitution provides for political parties gaining at least 10 percent of the national vote to qualify for financial support from the state. As it stands, Treasury transfers political party funding to Parliament and Parliament transfers the money to the party leader through his or her bank account. Although legislation, such as the *Public Finance Management Act, 2022 (PFMA)*, for the accountability of public resources exists, no leader of a political party or person who has received funds under Section 40(2) of the Constitution has been held to account for the resources received. Additionally, in Malaŵi, the allocation process remains arbitrary. In contrast, for example, in Kenya, a percentage of the national budget is allocated to political parties.

### **(c) Reluctance by political parties to account for public financing:**

Although Section 4 of the *Political Parties Act 2018* mandates private funding and donation disclosures, political parties are reluctant to disclose other donors due to cultural norms and corruption risks. This lack of transparency could result in government contracts being used as repayment mechanisms for financiers. Further, cultural perceptions discourage public disclosure of financial gifts, exacerbating opacity.

### **(d) Limited capacity and resources for the ORPP to effectively monitor and enforce compliance:**

Being a newly established institution, the ORPP has limited capacity, both human and financial. This has made it difficult to enforce political party financing laws effectively. In this case, the ORPP needs to have support in the form of human resources that understands money laundering, terrorist financing issues and has investigative capacity. To effectively deal with these matters, the ORPP needs to closely collaborate with MEC, ACB, and FIA. Further, the utilization of a manual registry system for political party financing (paper-based), makes documentation and compliance tracking inefficient and prone to manipulation.

**(e) Knowledge gaps in political parties and limited public awareness of the law:**

Existing knowledge gaps among political parties that the ORPP is responsible for enforcement, compounded by low public awareness and stakeholder engagement on political party financing laws, further contribute to non-compliance.

**Commitment Description**

**1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?**

The ORPP was established and operationalized, with its cost centre and dedicated budget vote to facilitate direct funding, and the RPP was recruited. Draft regulations to enhance the ORPP's mandate and operationalize the *Political Parties Act, 2018*, are at an advanced stage of development.

**2. What lessons have been learned from the previous NAP?**

The 2023-2025 NAP showed that operationalizing political party financing reforms is heavily dependent on institutional readiness and legal clarity. While the ORPP was established and its cost centre created, the absence of implementing regulations and limited human capacity delayed enforcement. Collaboration between oversight institutions such as MEC, ACB, and FIA was beneficial but remained ad hoc. Low public awareness also weakened demand for accountability. It is clear that the need for complete digitization of party finance records, stronger inter-agency coordination, and targeted sensitization for both political parties and citizens to cultivate a culture of transparency in political financing.

**3. What solution are you proposing?**

The commitments under this policy area are aimed at ensuring that public resources given to political parties are accounted for and used accordingly for the intended purpose. This commitment will:

**(a) Lobby that the ORPP should be involved in the process of political party funding.**

**(b) Enhance public disclosures of audited accounts** of political party funding.

**(c) Finalize the development of regulations to operationalize the *Political Parties Act, 2018*.** They should incorporate tracking of political party financing from private and other sources. Additionally, they must clarify what financial information should be disclosed and how this aligns with access to information and anti-corruption obligations.

**(d) Strengthen the ORPP** and ensure it has adequately skilled staff, funding, and capacity to monitor and enforce compliance. Additionally, enhance staff capacity on basic knowledge in anti-money laundering, terrorist financing, and financial investigation skills.

**(e) Increase inter-agency coordination and collaboration** between the ORPP and other oversight entities such as ACB, FIA, MHRC, MEC, NAO, and Parliament. These institutions play key roles in accessing information and tracking illicit financial flows, while the ORPP acts as a user of this information.

- (f) **Digitalise the Political Party Registry** by developing an online system to manage political party financing data, making it easier to track and disclose information.
- (g) **Strengthen coordination and enhance partnerships** between government institutions, CSOs, media, development partners, and the private sector to increase transparency in political party financing.
- (h) **Conduct sensitization campaigns** on political party financing regulations to political parties and the general public, as well as strengthen mechanisms to enforce compliance with political party financing laws.
- (i) **Enhance the role of CSOs and citizens** in ensuring transparency and accountability in political party financing.

**4. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

This commitment is expected to achieve:

- (a) Improved transparency and accountability in how public and private political party funding is managed.
- (b) Strengthened capacity of the ORPP to monitor and enforce compliance with political party financing laws.
- (c) Increased disclosure of political party financing information.
- (d) Strengthened institutional coordination and oversight.
- (e) Increased public and political party awareness of legal requirements and citizen engagement in monitoring compliance.

**Commitment Analysis**

<p>1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?</p>	<p>This commitment contributes to <i>Enabler 2: Effective Governance Systems and Institutions</i> MW2063 identifies corruption and lack of accountability as major barriers to development and commits to strengthening oversight institutions and promoting political integrity. This commitment supports those goals by regulating political finance, promoting disclosure, and empowering citizens and institutions to monitor how public and private funds influence political outcomes.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment promote transparency?</p>	<p>Transparency will be promoted through the public disclosure of audited political party accounts and donor information. Regulations will require political parties to report both public and private contributions, and a digital registry will enable open access to financial information on political party financing. These systems will improve visibility into how funds are allocated, used, and reported.</p>
<p>3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</p>	<p>The commitment empowers the ORPP and other oversight institutions to investigate and act on financial irregularities. By establishing regulations, digitizing records, and increasing collaboration with the ACB,</p>

	FIA, MHRC, MEC, NAO, and Parliament, enforcement will be more consistent. Regular publication of financial disclosures and reporting will also subject parties to public and institutional scrutiny, ensuring compliance .	
4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	The commitment will promote civic engagement through CSO-led public awareness campaigns and sensitization workshops on political party financing laws. Citizens and CSOs will be able to access and analyze political party financing data, raising questions and flagging issues as necessary.	
Commitment Planning		
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date
Publish political party financing and audited accounts	Periodic public declarations of political party finances and publication of annually audited reports	December 2029
	Full disclosure of political party donors and financing structures	December 2029
Enhance and enforce the regulatory framework to regulate public and private funding for political parties	Regulations to operationalize the <i>Political Parties Act, 2018</i> enacted and published in the gazette	June 2026
	Regulations and application of the law on political party financing enforced	December 2029
Increased capacity of the ORPP to regulate political parties	Government funding for the ORPP increased	July 2029
	Political Party Registry digitized	December 2027
Enhance the role of CSOs and citizens on political party funding	CSOs and citizens capacity to hold political parties on political party funding accountable enhanced	December 2026
	CSO engagement on political party funding increased	December 2029
	CSOs and citizens play an active role in fostering political party funding transparency	December 2029
Enhance collaboration and coordination with relevant MDAs	Collaborative and coordination meetings with stakeholders and oversight actors (National Assembly, ACB, FIA, AGD, MEC, OoO ,MoJCA and CSOs) held regularly	December 2029



***Natural Resources***

## 5.2 Natural Resources

<b>Commitment 4: Establishment of a Sovereign Wealth Fund</b>			
Create and operationalize a sovereign wealth fund to manage revenues from the extractive sector for current use and future generations with transparency and accountability			
<b>Commitment Leads</b>	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization Secretary to the Treasury  Natural Resource Justice Network (NRJN) National Coordinator		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Energy and Mining</li> <li>Ministry of Natural Resources</li> <li>MWEITI</li> <li>National Assembly</li> <li>MoJCA</li> <li>RBM</li> <li>MRA</li> <li>AGD</li> <li>Department of Forestry (DoF)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MEJN</li> <li>ActionAid</li> <li>Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)</li> <li>Oxfam Malaŵi</li> <li>Center for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA)</li> <li>FEDOMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adam Smith International</li> </ul>
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 - December 2029		
<b>Problem Definition</b>			
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>The current economic state of Malaŵi has made it perennially difficult to invest for future generations. As is the practice now, all government revenue is consolidated in account number one. This includes money realized from the mineral wealth of the country. With the increase in mining investments and operations, there is a need to manage proceeds from the mineral endowment of the country to cater for the needs of both the current and future generations. The Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) aims to properly manage and distribute revenues from the extractive sector. An SWF can ensure inclusive and intergenerational wealth management of revenues from the extractive industry. The absence of specific legislation to establish the fund is the key challenge.</p>			
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p> <p>The root cause of this problem is the absence of specific legislation to guide the fund's establishment.</p>			
<b>Commitment Description</b>			
<p><b>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</b></p> <p>The most suitable mechanisms for an SWF, tailored to meet the country's needs, are currently being explored. A concept note for benchmarking countries with established SWFs has been developed. The report on the benchmarking process will</p>			

inform the next steps in the implementation of the commitment. The report will also inform the feasibility of the establishment of an SWF. To strengthen capacity regarding the operationalization of the SWF, several capacity-building sessions have been planned, including training sessions for stakeholders.

**2. What solution are you proposing?**  
 This commitment will:

- a) Enact specific legislation** for establishing and managing the SWF.
- b) Review existing legal frameworks**, like the *PFMA* or other financial instruments, to ensure harmonization.
- c) Establish an SWF.**

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**  
 This commitment aims to achieve the following:

- (a) Secured a stable and transparent mechanism for managing extractive sector revenues.
- (b) Established a legal and institutional framework for the SWF, including governance and oversight measures.
- (c) Ensured equitable use of mineral wealth to benefit both current and future generations.

**Commitment Analysis**

<p>1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?</p>	<p>Malaŵi’s long-term vision is to make mining a key component of industrialization and sees the sector having tremendous potential to develop and support the inclusive wealth creation agenda. <sup>1</sup> Malaŵi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan’s (MIP-1) Theory of Change envisions mining, tourism, and agricultural sectors as key drivers to a manufacturing, industrial - based economy. It also promotes the acquiring and bolstering of technical skills in mining to keep up to date with market requirements. Such specialized skills in mining have to be developed to support mining as a strategic sector and require adequate and reliable sources of funding.<sup>2</sup> Thus, Malaŵi seeks to increase the percentage contribution of mining to domestic revenue from 1.2 percent in 2021 to 10 percent in 2030.<sup>3</sup> The country also targets increased value addition in mining and an increased percentage contribution of the extractive industry’s exports from a baseline of 1.7 percent in 2017 to 12.7 percent in 2030.<sup>4</sup></p>
<p>2. How will the commitment promote transparency?</p>	<p>The SWF will operate under legal and governance frameworks that require publication of revenue flows and investment decisions. Mining sector platforms,</p>

<sup>1</sup> MW2063, Pg. 11 & 17.

<sup>2</sup> MW2063-MIP-1 2021-2030, pg. 104

<sup>3</sup> MW2063-MIP-1 2021-2030, pg. 182.

<sup>4</sup> MW2063-MIP-1 2021-2030, pg. 184.

	such as the MWEITI website, will be used to track and disclose fund performance, and coordinated engagement with MDAs, CSOs, and the private sector will ensure visibility across the mining value chain.
3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Accountability mechanisms, including independent audits, oversight committees, and public reporting requirements, will accompany the fund's establishment. Coordination between MWEITI, Parliament, and other governance actors will ensure the fund is used according to its mandate. Legal safeguards will protect it from arbitrary reallocation, and CSOs will play a key role in monitoring implementation.
4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	The commitment encourages public involvement through inclusive consultations and proactive disclosures of reports and information on the SWF model and transparency frameworks. Civil society and private sector actors will participate in stakeholder engagement processes, ensuring that the fund reflects national priorities and public interest. Once operational, the fund's performance will be subject to public scrutiny through MWEITI reporting and CSO engagement.

#### Commitment Planning

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
Benchmark of SWF	Model results presented, and the best fit model for Malaŵi selected	March 2026
Review and enact laws governing SWF	Specific SWF Bill and regulations passed	December 2027
	Existing legal frameworks, like the <i>PFMA</i> or other financial instruments, reviewed for harmonization	December 2027

<b>Commitment 5: Adoption of Community Development Agreements in the mining sector</b>			
Ensure communities near mining sites benefit through legally enforced, transparent agreements with mining companies and active local participation			
<b>Commitment Leads</b>	Ministry of Energy and Mining Principal Secretary  ActionAid Executive Director		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MMRA</li> <li>• Ministry of Natural Resources</li> <li>• Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MoICT)</li> <li>• Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability, and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW)</li> <li>• MoFEPD</li> <li>• MLGUC</li> <li>• MWEITI</li> <li>• MoJCA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRJN</li> <li>• MEJN</li> <li>• ActionAid</li> <li>• Oxfam Malaŵi</li> <li>• NGO Coalition on Child Rights (NGOCCR)</li> <li>• NGOGCN</li> <li>• CEPA</li> <li>• FOCUS</li> <li>• FEDOMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adam Smith International</li> <li>• Mining Companies</li> <li>• Community members</li> <li>• MISA Malaŵi</li> <li>• MCM</li> <li>• MALGA</li> </ul>
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 - December 2029		
<b>Problem Definition</b>			
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>The problem that the commitment seeks to address affects communities around large mining operations who often times do not, in real terms, benefit from the proceeds of the mines. Some community members may, however, benefit through employment or trading their micro-small business merchandise to the workers of the mines. Furthermore, these local communities around the mines are often unable to hold public authorities and mining companies accountable for their actions and inactions in the mining operations that directly impact them in the long term, such as environmental degradation and pollution. Communities near mining sites also continue to experience negative environmental impacts, including poor waste management practices such as inadequate disposal of tailing, especially when mines have been abandoned, runoff contamination, and land degradation. These environmental hazards compound social and economic vulnerabilities in affected areas.</p>			
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p> <p>The challenges are as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>(a) Limited community awareness and knowledge</b> of policies and regulations governing the mining sector .</p>			

**(b) Weak enforcement mechanisms and limited community participation** in agreement negotiations.

**(c) CDAs in the mining sector are a relatively new concept**, particularly in large-scale mining operations in Malaŵi. CDAs are coming at an appropriate time when large-scale mining investments are rolling out. Apart from the resumption of the Kayelekera Uranium mine in Karonga, other large-scale mining ventures are scheduled to be rolled out shortly. Thus, learning from the experiences of the Kayelekera mine, it is expected that communities around the large mines will benefit from the proceeds of the mining operations through CDAs that are based on principles of openness, transparency, and accountability.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

The framework for CDAs has been developed. The *Mines and Minerals Act, 2023*, which was operationalized in the previous NAP, makes provisions for the allocation of mining revenues by companies to local communities. The MWEITI Bill has been drafted, and it includes provisions to support transparency in the mining sector. The commitment builds on ongoing extractive governance reforms and rising interest in large-scale mining projects.

#### 2. What solution are you proposing?

This commitment will achieve:

**(a) Enforced legal provisions** requiring mining companies to commit to sustainable community investment. Mining companies shall contribute 0.45 percent annually to the community within a 20-kilometer radius of the mining operation (Section 164 of the *Mines and Minerals Act, 2023*).

**(b) Expanded CDAs in the mining sector** to include medium scale mining.

**(c) Integrate environmental waste management measures** within CDAs, ensuring that mining companies commit to safe disposal of waste and proper rehabilitation of mining sites.

**(d) Ensure that structures at the local level for managing finances are well instituted**, transparent, and have the capacity to manage substantial financial resources.

**(e) Provide policy, legal, and financial guidance** to ensure proper implementation of the CDA.

**(f) Ensure the community has access** to accurate financial records.

**(g) Publicly disclose CDAs**, including mechanisms for monitoring how funds are allocated and used in various community projects.

**(h) Implement capacity-building programs and oversight mechanisms** to ensure transparency and effectiveness.

**(i) Facilitate stakeholder collaboration** to ensure long term benefits from CDAs.

### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

This commitment aims to achieve the following results:

- (a) Ensured local communities equitably benefit from mining operations.
- (b) Improved community involvement in extractive sector activities.
- (c) Fostered transparency in community investment funds and project implementation.
- (d) Institutionalized public reporting and environmental accountability measures.

#### Commitment Analysis

<p>1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?</p>	<p>MIP-1 seeks to increase and operationalize large-scale mining, such as Songwe Hill in Phalombe, Kanyika Niobium Mine, and Kasiya Rutile Mine, including facilitating increased cement production.<sup>5</sup> Apart from communities benefiting from the mining operations directly, the MIP-1 prioritizes increasing the lengths of paved rural roads and in mining potential areas to above 50 percent.<sup>6</sup> Thus, communities in and around mining areas have been earmarked for infrastructure development, further enhancing their quest to demand transparency and accountability for rolling out of such projects.</p> <p>Under the Industrialization pillar for MIP-1, one of the key interventions is to review and formulate laws to allow participation of communities, including the youth, through cooperatives.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment promote transparency?</p>	<p>The commitment requires public disclosure of CDA terms, financial allocations and audit reports. It also supports transparency through regular status reports. Financial records will be accessible at the community level, promoting open governance and trust.</p>
<p>3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</p>	<p>Accountability will be enhanced by enforcing mandatory CDA contributions and monitoring standards. Legal frameworks and environmental safeguards will hold mining companies responsible for both financial and environmental obligations. Community training and CSO involvement will strengthen local oversight, while status reports and audits will support further accountability. Accountability will also cover environmental waste management obligations. Mining companies will be required to report on waste disposal and land rehabilitation as part of their CDA requirements.</p>
<p>4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining,</p>	<p>This commitment ensures that communities are actively engaged in CDA design, implementation and evaluation. Local structures will be trained to manage and monitor mining related resources and activities,</p>

<sup>5</sup> MW2063-MIP-1 2021-2030, pg. 120 & 182.

<sup>6</sup> MW2063-MIP-1 2021-2030, pg. 83

implementing, and monitoring solutions?	while public awareness initiatives will clarify community rights and responsibilities. Regular engagement with CSOs and mining stakeholders will sustain inclusive decision making. Communities will participate in monitoring environmental waste management practices through CDA committees and local oversight structures, ensuring transparent communication and timely corrective actions where environmental damage occurs.	
Commitment Planning		
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
Enhance legislation requiring mining companies to commit to sustainable community investment	MWEITI Bill enacted	July 2028
	CDAs encompass medium-scale mining companies	July 2028
Enhance monitoring and capacity-building on CDAs	Enforced compliance with CDA standards and guidelines	December 2029
	Tailored mentorship and training for community structures managing CDAs	December 2029
Enhance CSO and community engagement on CDAs	Community awareness and monitoring of CDAs with a particular focus on community rights and responsibilities implemented	December 2029
Strengthen environmental accountability	Environmental standards and regulations for mining companies monitored and enforced	December 2029



# ***Fiscal Openness***



### 5.3 Fiscal Openness

<b>Commitment 6: Implementation of domestic debt procedures contracting and utilization</b>			
Strengthen oversight, transparency, and legal frameworks for domestic borrowing to ensure responsible debt use and public accountability			
<b>Commitment Leads</b>	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization Secretary to the Treasury  Economics Association of Malaŵi (ECAMA) President		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Assembly</li> <li>• AGD</li> <li>• RBM</li> <li>• MRA</li> <li>• MoJCA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MEJN</li> <li>• Oxfam Malaŵi</li> <li>• CSAT</li> <li>• Center for Social Concern (CSC)</li> <li>• ActionAid</li> <li>• FEDOMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial banks</li> <li>• World Bank</li> <li>• Academia</li> </ul>
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 - December 2029		
<b>Problem Definition</b>			
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>Section 72 of the <i>PFMA</i> provides for mandatory publication of a Debt Sustainability Report. The Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS) 2022-2026 includes annual plans to monitor debt sustainability. The Issuance Calendar outlines debt market operations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Treasury Bills and Bonds (Section 78 of the <i>PFMA</i>)</li> <li>(b) Private sector lending</li> <li>(c) Parliamentary approval of loans and deficit financing</li> </ul> <p>Some State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) can borrow, but they require Treasury approval.</p> <p>According to MW2063, Malaŵi has for a long time relied on development aid and credit to finance its development programs. This notwithstanding, the recent surge in public debt is a result of a reduced resource envelope amid growing spending pressures, largely in response to natural disasters and a lack of fiscal discipline among other factors. Malaŵi's domestic debt burden has risen significantly, leading to fiscal strain and increasing debt servicing burdens. Domestic borrowing often comes with high interest rates compared to external borrowing, which further increases debt servicing costs, making debt management more challenging. A significant proportion of stakeholders view domestic borrowing as not subjected to the necessary transparency and oversight, unlike external borrowing. Thus, the problem of public debt in Malaŵi broadly centers on a spiraling debt burden and debt sustainability concerns, transparency in debt monitoring, limited domestic revenue streams and the need for rigorous oversight and fiscal discipline measures.</p>			

## 2. What are the causes of the problem?

The root causes of the problem include:

**(a) Unsustainable national debt burden:** Malaŵi consistently runs fiscal deficits, meaning government expenditure exceeds revenue. To cover these deficits, the Government resorts to borrowing, with domestic borrowing being the easiest option. Malaŵi's debt burden stood at K16.19 trillion, representing 86.4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by February 2025. Out of this, external debt amounted to K7.39 trillion and domestic debt at K8.79 trillion. In the first half of the 2024/2025 fiscal year, Treasury borrowed K1.4 trillion, which is K300 billion above what was budgeted in the period. According to the World Bank, this spiraling debt is driven by large primary deficits in addition to exchange rate pressure and unrecorded obligations. Malaŵi's annual budget is formulated by factoring in a substantial deficit that has to be financed from sources outside its tax revenue potential and capacity. This means the government has to find resources to finance these gaps through domestic borrowing using debt instruments such as bonds and treasury bills, which are managed by RBM as the government's fiscal agent. Thus, although borrowing in itself is not bad, the real problem is the quality of borrowing, which is borrowing for consumption, other than for investment in priority areas. The problem of high debt burden is worsened by the formulation of unrealistic budgets beyond the current revenue collection capacity of the country's tax body, the MRA.

**(b) Lack of transparency in debt reporting:** Debt information is managed through the Meridian System, but it is not publicly accessible. Ideally, quarterly debt bulletins should be produced, and although annual debt reports are published, greater accessibility is needed. Furthermore, Malaŵi lacks a system for publishing details on treasury bills and domestic borrowing entities. There is also limited public participation in monitoring debt and fiscal policy implementation.

**(c) Non-compliance with the legal framework governing government borrowing and absence of specific legislation on debt management:** Public debt in Malaŵi is categorized into external and domestic debt. The responsibility for contracting public debt lies with the Minister of Finance, and some public entities can also contract debt under delegated authority. For debt contraction, the government evaluates terms, negotiates conditions and upon agreement, submits the proposal to the Minister of Finance through the Secretary to the Treasury. Once approved, both parties sign the agreement. Parliamentary approval is required for government loans but not for debt market instruments, which are crucial for financing government operations. However, Parliament indirectly approves domestic borrowing when it passes the national budget, which includes a deficit that necessitates borrowing.

Furthermore, the *PFMA* has lapses that do not mandate open declarations of domestic borrowing in Parliament. There are no defined procedures for tracking and managing domestic borrowing. Unlike external debt, there is minimal follow-up and disclosure on domestic borrowing utilization. On the other hand, others see no problems with the *PFMA*, but that implementation remains a key challenge. Sector-specific debt requests from MDAs require technical appraisal before approval. However, the budget process raises

questions about whether Parliament's approval of the National Budget also implies approval of the borrowing plan.

**(d) Limited parliamentary oversight capacity and uncoordinated oversight entities:** Despite its role, Parliament has not been fully engaged in borrowing decisions. The Budget and Finance Committee has raised concerns about insufficient involvement in domestic and external borrowing. In addition, the multiple oversight institutions (e.g. National Assembly, NAO, CSOs) exist but lack coordination and enforcement mechanisms. The Debt Situational Analysis Report, 2024 revealed that the borrowing plan and the MTDS do not often reach Parliament in time, limiting time for parliamentary scrutiny. This leads to parliamentarians making laws and approving loans without fully understanding their impact.

**(e) Public Finance Management inefficiencies and corruption:** Inefficiencies in public finance management contribute to the accumulation of debt. Some MDAs overspend beyond 100 percent of their budget while others struggle to access even 40 percent, for example, of their allocated budget. Corruption further weakens the impact of borrowed funds, as resources may not be used effectively for intended purposes.

#### Commitment Description

##### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Malaŵi is currently implementing the Public Finance Management Strategy (2023-2028) which focuses on enhancing domestic revenue mobilization, aligning budget execution with approved plans, and increasing public access to contract data.

To address debt sustainability concerns, the Government has updated and published its MTDS, incorporating both domestic and external debt considerations. Further, Government has committed to publishing regular reports on outstanding debt figures on official government websites.

The *PFMA* was amended in 2022 to address existing gaps in public debt contracting and ensure debt sustainability. Malaŵi has also extended the coverage of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) to include all revenue, domestic debt issuance receipts and debt servicing payments. This digitalization aims to strengthen cash management, improve transparency and ensure compliance with the amended *PFMA*.

##### 2. What solution are you proposing?

The NAP proposes implementing reforms that will:

**(a) Enforce compliance with the *PFMA*.**

**(b) Establish clear mechanisms for managing domestic debt,** create a Debt Consolidation Fund (similar to the fuel levy model) to avoid borrowing to pay off old debts, and ensure that borrowing is directed towards productive investments that stimulate long-term economic growth.

**(c) Enforce formulation of realistic national budgets** with manageable deficits to reduce reliance on borrowing. Reforms should be implemented to foster economic growth and reduce reliance on borrowing through the prioritization of self-sustaining economic strategies to achieve financial independence.

**(d) Strengthen transparency in local government and SOE** financial management.

**(e) Enhance the role of Parliament as an oversight institution** on the contraction and utilization of public loans. Loan approvals should undergo stronger scrutiny with clear guidelines to prevent unnecessary borrowing.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

This commitment aims to achieve the following results:

- (a) Improved transparency and accountability in domestic debt management.
- (b) Institutionalized stronger oversight by Parliament and audit institutions.
- (c) Prevented unauthorized or excessive borrowing.
- (d) Encouraged borrowing for investment, not consumption.
- (e) Enabled citizens and CSOs to track borrowing and hold institutions accountable.
- (f) Promoted fiscal sustainability, stronger revenue performance, and reduced debt vulnerabilities.

**Commitment Analysis**

<p>1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?</p>	<p>The commitment is in line with MIP-1 on effective governance systems and institutions. The Government has emphasized sound financial and economic management to strengthen sustainable public debt management. MW2063 also aspires to move towards digitizing all public finance management systems to be more efficient in domestic resource mobilization and curtail corruption.<sup>1</sup></p>
<p>2. How will the commitment promote transparency?</p>	<p>The commitment mandates public access to borrowing plans, debt servicing data, and domestic debt instruments. Through amendments to the <i>PFMA</i> and the creation of a public debt portal, citizens, Parliament, and CSOs will be able to access comprehensive and real-time information on domestic borrowing.</p>
<p>3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</p>	<p>By strengthening legal mandates, audit systems, and parliamentary oversight, the commitment ensures that debt contraction is subject to public scrutiny. Debt utilization audits and reporting requirements will deter misuse and promote efficient borrowing practices. It will also create mechanisms for CSOs to monitor and advocate for responsible debt use.</p>
<p>4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining,</p>	<p>The commitment creates space for civil society and citizens to participate through public reporting, advocacy campaigns, and multi-stakeholder coordination platforms. By making borrowing data</p>

<sup>1</sup> MW2063, Pg. 26 & 30.

implementing, and monitoring solutions?	accessible and involving stakeholders in fiscal dialogue, the government will improve trust and responsiveness in public financial decision-making.	
Commitment Planning		
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
Strengthen oversight of annual borrowing plans	Clear annual borrowing plans for listed borrowing entities thoroughly scrutinized by Parliament before approval	December 2029
	Compliance with the legal framework governing government borrowing enforced	December 2029
	Parliamentary oversight capacity on domestic debt enhanced	December 2029
	CSOs advocacy initiatives in debt management, fiscal transparency and accountability developed and implemented	December 2029
Increase transparency and accountability on domestic borrowing and utilization	Details on treasury bills and domestic borrowing published	December 2029
	A public portal to track domestic borrowing and utilization developed	December 2029
	Regular monitoring and reporting on debt audits conducted to track loan utilization and repayment	December 2029
	Public scrutiny and civic engagement on government borrowing practices enhanced	December 2029
	Regular public debt reports produced and proactively disclosed to ensure accountability and build trust among stakeholders	December 2029

**Commitment 7: Creating strong linkages between parliamentary functions and constituencies through access to parliamentary information platforms and processes**

Improve access to parliamentary information and citizen engagement in legislative and oversight processes through digital tools and public outreach

<b>Commitment Leads</b>	National Assembly Clerk of Parliament  Centre for Social Accountability and Transparency Executive Director
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<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>			<b>Civil Society</b>			<b>Other Actors</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoJCA</li> <li>• MoICT (Dept. of e-Government)</li> <li>• NICE Public Trust</li> <li>• Parliamentary Women’s Caucus</li> <li>• MACRA</li> <li>• MoFEPD</li> <li>• NAO</li> <li>• Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD)</li> <li>• MoYSC</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSAT</li> <li>• Child or Youth Parliament</li> <li>• MEJN</li> <li>• ECAMA</li> <li>• CCSS</li> <li>• ActionAid Development Communications Trust</li> <li>• CCJP</li> <li>• NGO-GCN</li> <li>• NGOCCR</li> <li>• YAS</li> <li>• Church and Society Programme (CSP)</li> <li>• Public Affairs Committee</li> <li>• FEDOMA</li> <li>• YONECO</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MISA Malaŵi</li> <li>• MCM</li> </ul>		

<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 - December 2029
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**Problem Definition**

**1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?**

The problem that the commitment seeks to address is the disconnect between the constituents, and Parliament itself. Often, Members of Parliament (MPs) claim to speak for their constituents and that they consult the people on issues that they present in the August House. However, it is not always the case, and many constituents have not had the chance to interact with their MPs.

Despite constitutional and legislative provisions and growing public interest in democratic governance, there remain limitations in terms of consistent access to parliamentary information, such as Bills, agendas, committee reports, hearings, etc. This is worsened by the limited engagement and feedback channels, including digital platforms, that can enhance access to parliamentary information remotely.

In addition, there is a misconception of the roles of MPs by the parliamentarians themselves and the people they represent. Practice has developed where the roles of MPs overlap with those of ward councilors. For example, constituency development

programs are championed by MPs through the Constituency Development Fund. Consequently, most constituents understand the role of MPs to include mainly infrastructure development and charity work. Such practices undermine democratic processes and the effective role of Parliament.

**2. What are the causes of the problem?**

The root causes of the problem include:

- (a) Limited public awareness of parliamentary roles** leads to discrepancies between the expectations people have of their MPs and their understanding of the roles of MPs.
- (b) Insufficient engagement, communication and feedback channels to reach the public, including language barriers.**

**Commitment Description**

**1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?**

There have been past attempts to bring Parliament close to the people through different initiatives. Such initiatives involved public awareness campaigns and interactions with the public at selected spots. However, these were isolated instances and achieved very little coverage of the whole country. Parliament has an official website and has established radio and television stations and is on social media platforms such as X and Facebook. Parliament has further embarked on live radio and TV broadcasts of proceedings in the House.

Parliament has also introduced Parliament Week to bring Parliament to the people. In addition, Parliament has institutionalized public hearings and enquiries on issues of national interest. Further, Parliament has introduced cluster committees for national budget scrutiny where civil society groups and citizens are involved in reviewing government budget proposals. All these efforts are designed to reach out to a larger audience and increase awareness and visibility of parliamentary business throughout the country.

**2. What solution are you proposing?**

This commitment will bring reform across all three functions of parliament by:

- (a) Enhancing public engagement and feedback on Parliamentary work**, such as through Parliament Week and other “Bring Parliament to the People” and Youth Parliament initiatives.
- (b) Scaling up the digitalization of Parliament** through, among others, an interactive portal on Parliament’s website that will share information on Bills, motions, etc. and provide an opportunity for citizens to provide feedback.
- (c) Scaling up Parliamentary Radio** beyond the Central Region.
- (d) Disseminating Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and relevant parliamentary information and business** through social media platforms, the official website and accessible communication aids.
- (e) Increasing accessibility** by ensuring that selected local languages, braille and sign language are officially introduced in Parliament and that the information disseminated to the public is translated into selected local languages.

### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

This commitment aims to achieve the following results:

- a) Strengthened connection between MPs and their constituents.
- b) Broadened public understanding of Parliament's functions.
- c) Increased CSO and citizen participation in parliamentary business.
- d) Improved transparency and accountability in parliamentary procedures.

#### Commitment Analysis

1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?	This commitment will contribute to increasing the culture of transparency, accountability, civic engagement and participation and access to parliamentary information which directly contributes to MW2063 pillars under Enabler 2: Effective Governance Systems and Institutions and Enabler 3: Enhance Public Sector Performance leading to improved public service delivery and trust overall contributing to the realization of Malaŵi's long term vision.
2. How will the commitment promote transparency?	Through digital and media platforms, Parliament will publish Bills, committee reports, and plenary sessions, while opening up legislative and oversight processes for public scrutiny. Online portals and social media channels will provide open access to parliamentary content in real time.
3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	The Code of Conduct, oversight hearings, and strengthened MP capacity will enable Parliament to hold the Executive accountable. Public engagement in hearings and feedback mechanisms will keep Parliament responsive and grounded in citizen needs.
4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	Citizens will be involved through localized outreach initiatives, live hearings, public consultations, and translated ICT materials. "Open Parliament" events and digital feedback loops will empower communities to engage directly with legislative processes.

#### Commitment Planning

Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date
Increase public access to parliamentary information and business	Parliament Information System digitalized and functional	December 2029
	Digital platforms that share information on Bills, motions, etc. developed and functional	July 2028
	Live radio and television programs broadcast on parliamentary proceedings	December 2029

	Radio and television outreach programs produced	December 2029
Enhance communication and engagement between Parliament and the citizenry	Interpretation of parliamentary proceedings into other languages provided	December 2028
	Open Parliament week scaled up	December 2029
	CSO and Parliament engagements strengthened	December 2029
	Information disseminated to the public translated into selected local languages	December 2029

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
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2026

Uniting Africa's Innovation  
For an **Inclusive**  
**Digital Market**



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION,  
COMMUNICATIONS AND THE  
DIGITAL ECONOMY



**KDEAP** KENYA DIGITAL ECONOMY  
ACCELERATION PROJECT



## **Digital Governance**



## 5.4 Digital Governance

<b>Commitment 8: Promotion of digital literacy, rights and inclusion</b>			
Promote digital rights by improving access to digital services, devices, and increasing digital literacy in an inclusive manner			
<b>Commitment Leads</b>	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (Dept. of e-Government) Principal Secretary (e-Government) Youth and Society Executive Director		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malaŵi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA)</li> <li>• Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture (MoYSC)</li> <li>• MoGCDSW</li> <li>• PPPC</li> <li>• Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST)</li> <li>• National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) Public Trust</li> <li>• NGO Regulatory Authority (NGORA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHRR</li> <li>• Digital Rights Coalition</li> <li>• Imagine Worldwide</li> <li>• Computers for Enhanced Education</li> <li>• Social Economic Enhancement and Enterprises</li> <li>• Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO)</li> <li>• Ulalo</li> <li>• FEDOMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT Association of Malaŵi (ICTAM)</li> <li>• Malaŵi Internet Service Providers Association (MISPA)</li> </ul>
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 - December 2029		
<b>Problem Definition</b>			
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>Despite advancements and investments in the digital space, many citizens remain digitally illiterate, are unaware of their digital rights and fail to access online services. Access to and affordability of devices and services also hinder inclusion.</p> <p>Malaŵi has made significant strides in advancing digital rights. However, a number of challenges remain. Limited internet access and affordability are also a challenge. Current internet penetration remains low at 27.7 percent, especially among women and other marginalized groups. Additionally, Malaŵi's Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of opinion, expression and assembly, as well as freedom of the press. Despite these enabling provisions, freedom of expression online and offline has faced surveillance and restriction challenges with the <i>Electronic Transactions and Cyber Security Act, 2016</i>, and other digital governance related laws. These restrictions, as well as limited awareness of digital rights, responsibilities and related laws, have hindered the full enjoyment of digital and civic freedoms.</p> <p>While the <i>Access to Information Act, 2016</i> is designed to facilitate citizens' access to government held information, several existing laws, some dating back to colonial</p>			

times, continue to promote government secrecy. For instance, Section 4(1) of the *Official Secrets Act, 1968*, prohibits the disclosure of a wide range of information, including any information obtained through public service. This undermines the provisions on the right to information under Section 37 of the Constitution and Section 15 of the *Access to Information Act, 2016*. Additionally, most Government information is not available and accessible in digital formats and in local languages.

## 2. What are the causes of the problem?

The root causes of the problem include:

- (a) Limited public awareness:** There is a lack of awareness of digital rights and the available services. Many citizens are not aware of their digital rights, including access to online platforms, freedom of expression, social media role, and misinformation, as well as data privacy. This lack of awareness limits their ability to demand better services and protection. For example, even though the Land Information Management System and the MBRS are operational online, many citizens remain unaware of how to access them or what specific processes to follow in pursuit of access.
- (b) Inclusion:** Limited penetration of adaptive technologies and inadequate inclusion of women and persons with disabilities in the digital space.
- (c) Affordability and accessibility of devices and the internet:** High costs of smartphone adoption and citizen access to e-Government services.
- (d) Low participation of women in the digital space:** The participation of women in the digital space remains low due to a combination of social and educational barriers, limited access to digital devices, and low digital literacy. Poverty and prevailing gender norms hinder most women from participating in the digital space.
- (e) Huge gap in last-mile infrastructure:** Over the years, digital infrastructure development has concentrated on urban and semi-urban settings, leaving the rural and remote areas unconnected.
- (f) Restrictive and outdated laws:** There are a number of laws that restrict the full enjoyment of digital rights, including freedom of expression.
- (g) Digital surveillance and arbitrary arrests:** Over the years, several citizens and media practitioners have been threatened or arrested for expressing and reporting online.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Commitments in the previous NAP were primarily focused on technology and system improvements. Technology-related aspects like software governance have also been addressed. In addition, efforts have been made through the Digital Malaŵi Project, which introduced the Enterprise Service Bus to consolidate various government services into a single platform, like road safety, business registration, and land management. However, there is low public awareness of this platform, which limits its effectiveness.

The *Data Protection Act, 2024*, has addressed the legal gaps as they pertain to the protection of digital rights, and the National Digitalization Policy (2023-2028) was

operationalized. Additionally, the Universal Service Fund (USF) under MACRA has initiatives that are supporting access to affordable mobile devices.

Significant efforts to increase digital literacy have been made through initiatives, such as the support to Technology Hubs in the Digital Malaŵi Project that have trained 19,000 women and youth in various digital skills and entrepreneurship.

## 2. What solution are you proposing?

This commitment aims to:

- (a) Promote digital awareness and inclusion** by facilitating access to smartphone devices and digital platforms.
- (b) Promote financial inclusion** through digital governance.
- (c) Localize and digitize** processes at all levels.
- (d) Accelerate digital literacy initiatives** to empower citizens, specifically the youth, women and the elderly, about their digital rights and responsibilities, including the understanding of AI.
- (e) Establish collaborative structures and service agreements** with CSOs to increase awareness of digital rights and services.
- (f) Promote local assembly of digital devices** which could reduce costs and improve digital access.
- (g) Review digital governance laws** that restrict the enjoyment of digital rights and, where necessary, enact new laws including those related to emerging digital technologies like artificial intelligence (AI).
- (h) Adopt and implement policies that make internet and online services** more affordable and accessible.

## 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

This commitment aims to achieve the following results:

- (a) Increased public awareness and access to digital services.
- (b) Improved inclusion of marginalized groups in the digital space.
- (c) Expanded digital literacy and responsible technology use.
- (d) Strengthened data protection frameworks.
- (e) Enhanced legal framework governing digital rights.
- (f) Increased accessibility and affordability of digital devices.

### Commitment Analysis

1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?	MW2063 envisions a digitally enabled society with equitable access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services. This commitment promotes digital inclusion, especially for underserved populations, and supports the broader goal of fostering innovation and connectivity across Malaŵi.
2. How will the commitment promote transparency?	By empowering citizens with knowledge of their digital rights and available services, the commitment enhances demand for transparency in digital

	governance and builds trust in e-Government platforms.	
3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Greater awareness increases citizen expectations and scrutiny of government service delivery and data management, holding institutions accountable through informed public engagement.	
4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	The commitment equips citizens with the knowledge and tools to access digital platforms and advocate for their digital rights, strengthening inclusive participation in governance.	
<b>Commitment Planning</b>		
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
Enhance digital rights	<i>Data Protection Act, 2024</i> , enforced, and regulations developed	December 2028
	Public awareness of digital rights and policies increased	December 2029
	Digital governance laws developed, reviewed, amended, or repealed	December 2029
Accelerate digital literacy	Citizens empowered to utilize digital devices, tools, and services	December 2029
	Digital literacy and awareness of available services increased	December 2029
	Partnerships between the government, CSOs, and the private sector expanded to enhance digital literacy	December 2029
Improve access to digital devices	Local assembly of digital devices supported to improve digital device affordability and accessibility	December 2029
	Partnerships between government, CSOs and private sector promoted for digital infrastructure development	December 2029

<b>Commitment 9: Enhancing utilization of e-Government systems</b>	
Ensure progressive adoption of secure digital systems across government, enforce policy compliance, and build capacity for efficient, tech-enabled service delivery	
<b>Commitment Leads</b>	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (Dept. of e-Government) Principal Secretary (e-Government)  Digital Rights Coalition Deputy Chairperson

Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MACRA</li> <li>• PPPC</li> <li>• NICE Public Trust</li> <li>• MDAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHRR</li> <li>• Imagine Worldwide</li> <li>• Computers for Enhanced Education</li> <li>• Social Economic Enhancement and Enterprises</li> <li>• Ulalo</li> <li>• YAS</li> <li>• FEDOMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICTAM</li> <li>• MISPA</li> <li>• Mobile network providers</li> <li>• mHub</li> <li>• NxtGen</li> <li>• Sparc Systems</li> <li>• Academia</li> </ul>
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 – December 2029		
<b>Problem Definition</b>			
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p>			
<p>Various MDAs have developed a number of e Government systems which are available for use by the public. However, their functionality and accessibility are hampered by inadequate knowledge of their existence by the public, limited availability of digital devices, limited digital infrastructure and erratic availability of the internet. In addition, most MDAs have yet to fully digitize their operations and maintain up-to-date websites. Further, cybersecurity resilience is limited across government digital infrastructure and systems.</p>			
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p>			
<p>Several causes contribute to this problem, including:</p>			
<p><b>(a) Poor enforcement of existing policies:</b> Although Malaŵi has a National Digitalization Policy (2023-2028) and other regulations, enforcement remains weak, such as the continued use of personal emails by government officials on government business. Using private emails exposes sensitive government data to external parties, which compromises national security.</p>			
<p><b>(b) Underutilization of the Government Wide Area Network (GWAN) infrastructure:</b> While the system exists, many MDAs do not fully utilize it due to its erratic availability, limiting the efficiency of digital governance.</p>			
<p><b>(c) Limited technical capacity and website management in MDAs:</b> Website updates are the responsibility of individual MDAs, but many still depend on the Department of e Government for updates. The Department of e Government provides training and manuals, yet MDAs face capacity issues in maintaining and updating their sites.</p>			
<p><b>(d) Distrust in the use of digital technologies and systems due to crimes in the cyberspace.</b></p>			
<b>Commitment Description</b>			
<p><b>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</b></p>			
<p>Government established GWAN to facilitate digital communication across MDAs. In addition, technical solutions and requirements have been put in place to enable government officials to use official government email addresses. Furthermore,</p>			

Government has adopted policies and enacted a number of laws to enhance digital governance.

Since 2017, Government has been implementing the Digital Malaŵi project to improve public access to services, increase high speed internet availability, and develop an e-procurement system to reduce fraud and corruption. The Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) was introduced to enable seamless data-sharing among government departments. The focus has been on improving public service delivery by integrating various platforms for transaction facilitation and information dissemination. Further, through previous NAP commitments, several public sites were provided with internet connectivity and additional sites will be provided with connectivity in this NAP.

## 2. What solution are you proposing?

This NAP proposes:

- (a) Enforcing digital policy adoption** among government officials and mandatory use of official email addresses with enforcement mechanisms in place and sanctioning - non compliance. Stronger enforcement of confidentiality agreements and greater awareness of the risks associated with using personal email addresses are needed to mitigate these issues. Enforcement should come from a high level government authority that oversees MDAs. It cannot rest solely on individual ministries, as this would lead to inconsistent enforcement.
- (b) Expanding digital infrastructure** and full utilization of GWAN across all MDAs, including local authorities.
- (c) Building capacity** for managing e-Government platforms in MDAs, including improving cybersecurity skills.
- (d) Full-scale implementation of the ESB** for improved service delivery.
- (e) Collaborating with the private sector and other partners** in the improvement of digital infrastructure.

## 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

This commitment aims to achieve the following results:

- (a) Improved the use of safe and secure government communication systems.
- (b) Increased adoption of integrated and up to date e-Government systems at all levels of government.
- (c) Enhanced inter-agency coordination and service delivery.
- (d) Reduced data security risks and increased efficiency.

### Commitment Analysis

1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?	MW2063 identifies digital transformation as a driver of good governance, accountability and service efficiency. This commitment aligns with aspirations for a digitally enabled public sector with seamless information access and reduced service delivery costs.
2. How will the commitment promote transparency?	Digitizing government systems ensures real-time access to services and reduces information asymmetry. Mandatory use of government emails

	increases traceability and protects official communication.	
3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	The use of government emails and digital systems increases traceability and protects official communication and data. Sanctioning non-compliance with digital policy, standardizing system use, and publishing operational reports will hold institutions and officials accountable for digital governance responsibilities.	
4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	Efficient and secure digital platforms allow citizens to access information, interact with government services, and report issues, ultimately creating a responsive governance environment.	
Commitment Planning		
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
Expand digital infrastructure across all MDAs	MDAs equipped with digital governance systems for transparency and efficiency	December 2029
	Enterprise Service Bus implemented and used across all government sectors	July 2028
	Government Computer Emergency Response Team (GCERT) fully implemented	December 2027
Enforce the use of official e-mail addresses in MDAs	Government officials fully adopt the mandatory use of government e-mail addresses.	July 2026
	Non-compliance sanctioned	December 2029
Strengthen policy implementation at the national and local government levels	Council officials and citizens engaged in digital governance initiatives to ensure widespread adoption and effectiveness	December 2029
	Dept. of e-Government structure revised and aligned to align with current ICT landscape and best practices	December 2029
	Data protection measures implemented	December 2029
Build digital technical capacity in all MDAs	Digital platforms updated and operational	December 2029
Enhance collaboration and coordination between the government and the private sector	Tailor-made digital services developed for e-Government systems	December 2029
	Digital infrastructure and services improved	December 2029

<b>Commitment 10: Enhancing access to public data/information through e-Government platforms</b>			
Improve and expand access to government data via a centralized portal, enforce content update standards, and increase infrastructure for digital inclusion			
<b>Commitment Leads</b>	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (Dept. of e-Government) Principal Secretary (e-Government)  Section30 Executive Director		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MACRA</li> <li>• PPC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHRR</li> <li>• Digital Rights Coalition</li> <li>• Imagine Worldwide</li> <li>• Computers for Enhanced Education</li> <li>• Social Economic Enhancement and Enterprises</li> <li>• NGOGCN</li> <li>• NGOCCR</li> <li>• YAS</li> <li>• Ulalo</li> <li>• FEDOMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICTAM</li> <li>• MISPA</li> <li>• Mobile network providers</li> <li>• MISA Malaŵi</li> <li>• MCM</li> </ul>
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 - December 2029		
<b>Problem Definition</b>			
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>Access to public data through e-Government platforms in Malaŵi is hindered by technical, infrastructure and systemic limitations. Inconsistent power supply, weak content management by MDAs, limited smartphone coverage and outdated websites reduce the reliability of digital platforms. Many citizens lack access to or understanding of digital tools, which impedes their ability to interact with government services. Concerns over limited transparency, language restrictions and lack of public-facing portals contribute to low trust and use of e-Government platforms.</p>			
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p> <p>The root causes of the problem include:</p> <p><b>(a) Technical barriers:</b> The commitment seeks to first address the problem of unreliable service provision due to inconsistent network availability resulting from intermittent power supply. This disrupts access to e-Government systems, making it difficult for users to access these platforms.</p> <p><b>(b) Unreliable and ineffective central portal for government information</b> that is regularly updated. Updating content on government websites is primarily the responsibility of individual MDAs. Although websites are built and handed</p>			

over to these agencies along with training, the process of maintaining and updating content often fails due to capacity issues or neglect. Some MDAs continue to rely on external support for minor updates like changing photos or content, further complicating the situation. This is exacerbated by MDAs operating independently, which makes it difficult to ensure that information is consistently available to the public through a well-coordinated Information Technology (IT) oversight structure.

**(c) Low digital infrastructure penetration:** Many areas, especially in rural communities, lack access to the internet and digital services, widening the digital divide. This results in low uptake and access, further compounded by language barriers and low access to the internet and even usage.

**(d) Low coverage of smart devices:** Access to information and data is hampered by limited access to smart devices. Many people in rural areas of Malaŵi still use feature phones, which limits their ability to access services requiring smart devices. Even though the mobile network infrastructure is largely in place, there is still a gap at the last mile of access.

**(e) Concerns over free speech and information access:** Public complaints suggest that access to information and freedom of speech in digital spaces are sometimes violated. Citizens often struggle to access government data online, and certain restrictions hinder digital expression. Access is also hindered by inconsistent availability of public data across various government platforms, and outdated information on government portals. Many ministries and agencies have outdated or inactive websites, making access to information difficult for citizens. In addition, Government systems operate in silos, thereby limiting the effectiveness and efficiency associated with digital platforms.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Malaŵi has addressed legal gaps through the Data Protection Act and is progressing with the implementation of the National Digitalization Policy (2023-2028). Further, through MACRA's Strategic Plan, initiatives are being implemented to reduce the cost of mobile devices and expand infrastructure. Efforts to digitize local government services and build capacity at the council level are also underway.

#### 2. What solution are you proposing?

This commitment aims to:

**(a) Implement policies** that address key challenges such as the limited coverage of smartphones due to the high costs of devices and lower the tax burdens on devices. As well as instituting measures that will increase coverage of smartphones by making them available and affordable.

**(b) Having a single, updated portal for government information** that requires mandatory publishing and that is consistently updated, especially for legal documents such as Bills, amendments and regulations from various ministries.

**(c) Enforce accountability mechanisms** with consequences for unmaintained government portals/systems.

**(d) Establish a framework for service level agreements (SLA)** that sets clear expectations for system uptime and maintenance. For example, a portal should have guaranteed operational hours. If the system fails to meet these standards, the parties responsible should face penalties or other forms of accountability to ensure the system is consistently maintained and functional.

**(e) Conduct social media awareness and engagement activities to** disseminate digital messages and expand outreach.

**(f) Conduct data/metrics analysis** (e.g., geographical distribution) to analyze the impact of awareness and engagement activities.

**(g) Strengthen inclusive and direct citizen engagement.**

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

This commitment aims to achieve the following results:

- (a) Reliable, citizen-friendly access to public data and services.
- (b) Improved digital platform performance across MDAs.
- (c) Increased use of digital governance tools by citizens.
- (d) Transparent publication of laws, budgets, and regulations.
- (e) Stronger feedback loops between citizens and government.

**Commitment Analysis**

1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?	MIP-1 recognizes the ICT sector as an accelerator to achieving a robust digital economy that is globally competitive. Achieving this requires universal access to ICT services and heavy investment in digitalization equipment and infrastructure. <sup>1</sup>
2. How will the commitment promote transparency?	It will establish a single source of truth for laws, policies, and government updates. By ensuring timely updates and publishing standards across MDAs, the government will make critical information publicly and reliably accessible.
3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Service level agreements and enforced content update responsibilities will ensure MDAs are held accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of public data. Citizens and CSOs will be able to monitor adherence and report issues.
4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	Improved access to legal documents, policies and services enable citizens to make informed decisions, demand action and engage meaningfully with the state through digital tools. Localized platforms and targeted literacy efforts will bridge access gaps for underserved populations.

**Commitment Planning**

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
Enhance technical capacity to manage e-Government systems	MDAs independently manage e-portals and information updates	April 2027

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thefreelibrary.com/MACRA+launches+2022-2027+strategic+plan.-a0766550468>

Improve digital infrastructure	Increased geographical coverage of digital infrastructure	December 2029
	Develop service-level agreements with digital technology providers for updates and improved service delivery	July 2026
Localize digitalization	Local council systems are digitized and operational	December 2027



**LDC**  
CLIMATE CHANGE



## ***Climate and Environment***



## 5.5 Climate and Environment

<b>Commitment 11: Open and accountable climate action</b>			
Improve climate transparency, public participation, and finance tracking through open data, community monitoring, and stronger legal frameworks			
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources (Environmental Affairs Department) Principal Secretary for Natural Resources  Civil Society Network on Climate Change National Coordinator		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoFEPD</li> <li>• Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)</li> <li>• DoF</li> <li>• Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources</li> <li>• Malaŵi Environment Protection Agency (MEPA)</li> <li>• MoLGRD</li> <li>• Ministry of Health and Sanitation</li> <li>• National Statistical Office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRJN</li> <li>• CEPA</li> <li>• ActionAid</li> <li>• National Youth Network on Climate Change</li> <li>• Section30</li> <li>• Oxfam Malaŵi</li> <li>• Gender Justice Unit</li> <li>• Association of Environmental Journalists</li> <li>• FEDOMA</li> <li>• Association of Persons with Albinism in Malaŵi (APAM)</li> <li>• Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Malaŵi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academia</li> <li>• MISA Malaŵi</li> <li>• MCM</li> </ul>
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2026 - December 2029		
<b>Problem Definition</b>			
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>Despite strong climate plans (e.g. the National Climate Change Management Policy (NCCMP) and Malaŵi's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement), Malaŵi lacks an institutionalized, transparent system for tracking climate actions, budgets, and results. Currently, data is scattered across institutions and not regularly published in accessible formats. This reduces public trust, impairs coordination, and limits civic oversight. Communities and civil society often have minimal involvement in shaping or monitoring climate initiatives. This leads to inefficiencies, missed opportunities for climate finance and poor local ownership of adaptation strategies.</p> <p>The problem affects all citizens, particularly those in vulnerable communities in climate-exposed districts (e.g. flood-prone or drought-prone areas).</p> <p>Additionally, ineffective management of environmental waste continues to contribute to environmental degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. Weak coordination</p>			

between communities and authorities has limited the enforcement of waste management regulations and data disclosure on waste generation and disposal.

## 2. What are the causes of the problem?

Root causes include:

- (a) Fragmented institutional coordination:** Climate responsibilities are spread across MDAs with poor coordination frameworks.
- (b) Lack of legal mandates for data disclosure and publication:** There are no legal requirements to publish Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), permits or project performance data.
- (c) Absence of standardized Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems:** Malaŵi lacks a national MRV system for climate actions.
- (d) Inconsistent stakeholder engagement:** Public and CSO consultations occur but are ad hoc, lacking institutionalization and feedback loops.
- (e) Limited investment in data infrastructure:** Technical and financial barriers hinder the development of centralized digital platforms for climate data and finance tracking.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Malaŵi submitted its NDC in July 2021 and it includes an MRV framework, implementation plan, and resource mobilization strategy. The Climate Change Finance Management Information System (CCFMIS) has been developed, and district councils have been trained on the system. In addition, the National Adaptation Plan and the Enhanced Transparency Framework web portals have been developed and are operational. Further, the Greenhouse Gas Inventory was developed and is functioning.

The NCCMP and various sectoral policies providing a guiding framework for mainstreaming climate action are being implemented. However, implementation is fragmented and lacks dedicated systems, standard procedures, and legal backing.

#### 2. What solution are you proposing?

This NAP proposes implementing an “Open Climate Action Initiative” to embed open government principles in the country’s climate response. This differs from previous efforts by creating systematic structures for data, engagement, and finance tracking; embedding climate openness in law, digital systems, and policy; and empowering districts and citizens. It aims to solve the problem partially but significantly, by addressing the transparency, coordination, and participation dimensions that currently hinder implementation.

This initiative will:

- (a) Operationalize a national MRV system** aligned with Malaŵi’s NDC and global standards.
- (b) Develop and launch a public Climate Finance Dashboard** to disclose domestic and international funding flows, investment gaps and expenditure performance.
- (c) Strengthen citizen and CSO participation** in climate planning, including NDC and District Development Plan processes.

- (d) Promulgate regulations** to mandate proactive disclosure and publication of ESIA's, environmental audits and NDC-related data in digital formats.
- (e) Establish a Climate Transparency Unit** in the Environmental Affairs Department.
- (f) Establish a platform for bankable projects** to benefit from climate financing through engagement of private sector investments.
- (g) Strengthen transparency and accountability in environmental waste management** by promoting open data on waste disposal and enhancing community monitoring of waste disposal practices.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

The commitment will achieve the following results:

- (a) Developed Climate Finance Dashboard and MRV system
- (b) Published ESIA's, environmental audits and NDC-related data in digital formats
- (c) Increased citizen knowledge and participation in climate actions and financing
- (d) Enhanced public trust in Malaŵi's climate action and accountability mechanisms
- (e) Established platform for bankable projects for climate financing through private sector investments

**Commitment Analysis**

<p>1. How is this commitment relevant to MW2063?</p>	<p>This commitment contributes to the achievement of Enabler 7: Environmental Sustainability under MW2063, which envisions “a clean, secure and sustainable environment”. MW2063 highlights that environmental challenges such as climate adversities, deforestation, pollution and weak institutional coordination must be addressed through integrated systems, including technology and innovation, that build resilience, promote climate change adaptation and mitigation, and enhance institutional capacity.</p> <p>The commitment supports MW2063's call to harmonize environmental policies, strengthen environmental data systems, and foster public participation. By opening environmental data and creating avenues for civic engagement, this commitment enhances national ownership and accountability in line with MW2063's vision of an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation. It also facilitates innovation and green investment, both of which are promoted in the Vision as pathways for building sustainable livelihoods and protecting Malaŵi's natural capital.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment promote transparency?</p>	<p>The commitment will promote transparency by establishing a Climate Transparency Portal that provides open access to data on NDC targets, climate adaptation projects, and performance indicators. It will also feature a Climate Finance Dashboard that discloses domestic and international financial flows,</p>

	allowing citizens and stakeholders to track how climate resources are allocated and spent. Furthermore, reforms to the legal framework will mandate the online publication of ESIA reports, environmental permits, and other key datasets, ensuring that critical environmental information is accessible to the public in real time.
3. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Accountability will be strengthened through the implementation of an MRV system that links climate actions to measurable results. Citizens and CSOs will be empowered to track project progress and resource utilization, supported by community-based monitoring mechanisms. This will allow for regular public reporting and improved oversight of national climate goals, creating a more accountable climate governance ecosystem.
4. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	Citizen participation will be enhanced through structured, institutionalized consultations on key climate policies and planning processes, including the NDC. The Government will adopt stakeholder engagement guidelines and convene inclusive forums that ensure the active involvement of marginalized groups. In addition, communities will co-develop locally relevant climate adaptation tools and risk mapping systems, enabling them to define their priorities and monitor the implementation of solutions that directly affect them.

#### Commitment Planning

*(This is an initial planning process largely looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)*

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
Operationalize national MRV system	The MRV system developed and implemented	December 2029
Develop Climate Finance Dashboard	Climate finance dashboard launched, tracking domestic and international sources	December 2029
	Platform for bankable projects for climate financing through private sector investments established	December 2029
	Donor and private sector inflow reports and expenditure performance data published	December 2029
Strengthen citizen and CSO participation in climate policy processes	Stakeholder engagement guidelines adopted for NDC reviews and climate policy updates	December 2029

	Feedback reports published with government responses	December 2029
Promulgate regulations to enhance transparency	ESIA disclosure regulations promulgated and published	December 2029
	Online platform for ESIA reports and environmental audits operational	December 2029

# 6

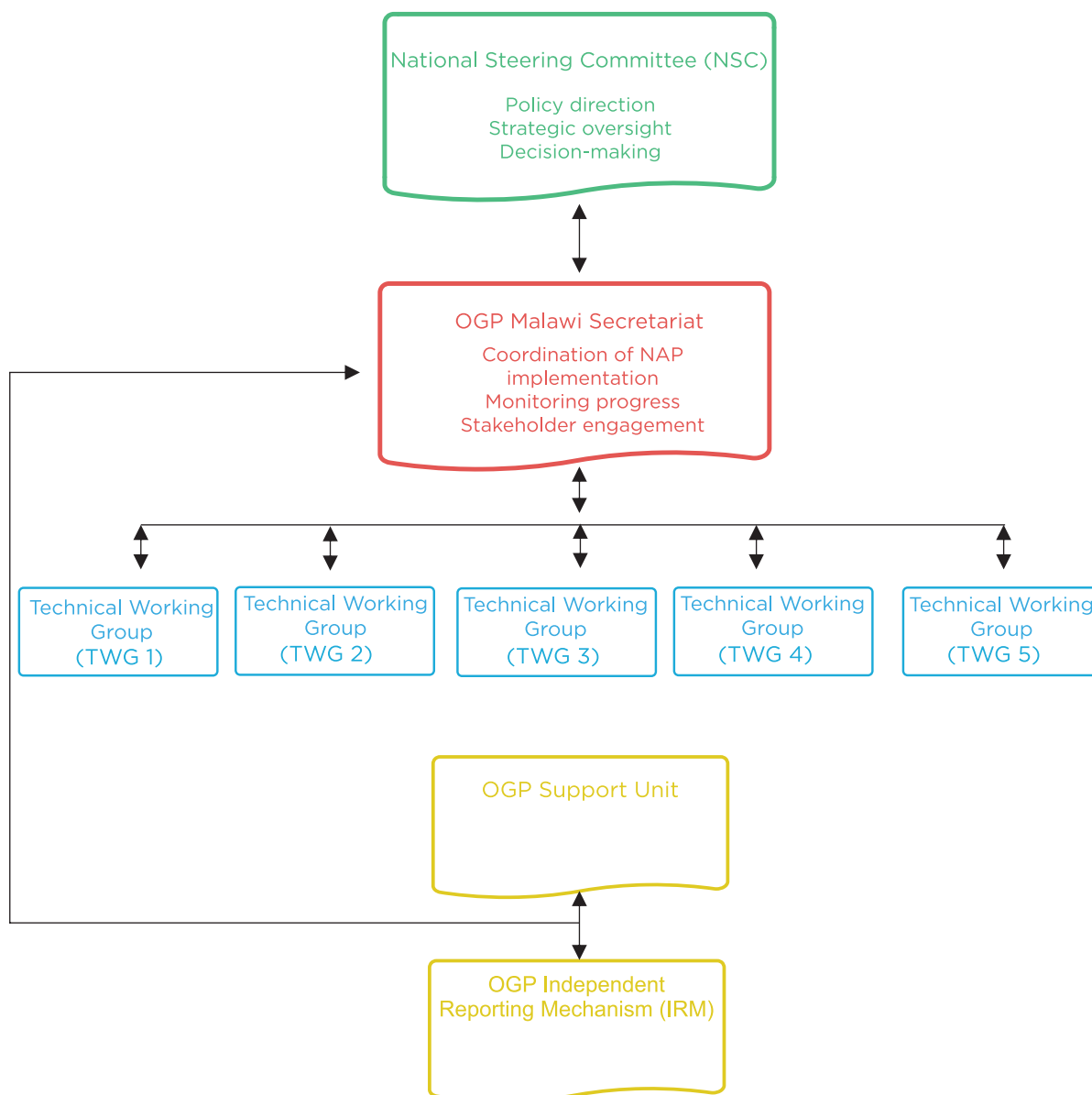
## **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

# 6.0 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The implementation of the NAP will be governed by a national multi-tiered structure comprising the National Steering Committee (NSC), the five Technical Working Groups (TWGs), and the OGP Malaŵi Secretariat. This structure ensures effective coordination, implementation, monitoring, and oversight of commitments under the NAP.

## 6.1 Institutional Framework

The Institutional framework for the coordination and implementation of the NAP comprises the NSC at the top, with the corresponding OGP Malaŵi Secretariat in the OPC and the five TWGs composed of technical experts under each policy area. Further, at the international level, the OGP Africa and the Middle East Support Unit provides technical guidance and direction on the overall implementation of the OGP initiative. The accountability arm of the OGP global body, namely the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM), assesses the co-creation and the co-implementation of the OGP NAP and produces the implementation Results Report at the end of the implementation cycle. Figure 1 below illustrates the institutional framework.



**Figure 1.** Institutional Framework for OGP-NAP Implementation

## 6.2 Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of each tier are outlined below:

### **National Steering Committee**

The National Steering Committee is the highest decision-making body overseeing the implementation of the NAP. It is co-chaired by a senior representative from both the Government and civil society and is responsible for:

- Providing strategic direction, stewardship, and guidance on OGP activities.
- Ensuring alignment of Malaŵi OGP commitments with global OGP guidelines and national policies and priorities.
- Addressing challenges and bottlenecks in implementation.
- Approving annual work plans and key outputs of the TWGs.
- Reviewing NAP implementation and performance reports.
- Promoting resource mobilization strategies to support NAP implementation.

### **Composition:**

- Government representatives from key MDAs
- Civil Society, media, private sector, and academic representatives
- International development partners (as observers)
- TWG Co-chairs (co-opted)

### **Technical Working Groups**

TWGs are responsible for the detailed co-creation, planning, and execution of commitments under their respective policy areas. They serve as the primary mechanism for collaboration between government and civil society in the co-implementation of the NAP. The responsibilities of the TWGs are:

- Co-creating work plans to achieve ambitious results under their respective commitments.
- Facilitating the implementation of agreed activities and measures.
- Monitoring progress of implementation and reporting to the NSC and the OGP Malaŵi Secretariat.
- Engaging stakeholders and ensuring inclusive participation in the implementation of work plans.
- Mobilizing resources for the implementation of TWG workplan activities.
- Developing Terms of Reference to govern the operations of the TWG.

To enhance efficiency and accountability, each TWG will include the following sub-roles and responsibilities:

**(a) Co-chairs (Government and Civil Society):** Provide overall guidance and direction of the TWG; Facilitate meetings and ensure alignment with OGP principles within the TWG; Promote monitoring and evaluation of the planned activities to track performance of the workplan in alignment with reporting requirements; and Coordinate outreach activities, ensuring inclusive stakeholder participation.

**(b) Secretary:** Responsible for taking minutes, maintaining records, ensuring

documentation of discussions and decisions, and fostering effective communication.

**(c) Commitment Lead<sup>10</sup>:** Responsible for leading the direct implementation of the commitment and reporting to the TWG.

### **OGP Malaŵi Secretariat**

The OGP Malaŵi Secretariat is the central coordination body for OGP initiatives in the country. It includes the Point of Contact (PoC) – a senior government official who serves as the link between OGP Malaŵi and the OGP Global body. The Secretariat’s responsibilities include:

- Convening stakeholders for regular engagements and consultations.
- Preparing national OGP self-assessment reports and submitting them to the OGP Global Secretariat.
- Ensuring NAP co-creation and implementation complies with OGP global standards.
- Identifying and promoting best practices.
- Implementing recommendations from the IRM.
- Managing communications with the OGP Global Support Unit and other partners.
- Ensuring Malaŵi’s visibility at regional and global OGP forums.
- Coordinating resource mobilization strategies to support NAP implementation.

### **OGP Africa and the Middle East Support Unit and OGP Global Secretariat**

The OGP Africa and the Middle East Support Unit, as well as the OGP Global Secretariat, provide key guidance and support in the co-creation and implementation of OGP initiatives in Malaŵi. Their roles and responsibilities include:

- Providing strategic guidance and technical assistance
- Facilitating capacity building and peer learning
- Coordinating stakeholder engagement
- Monitoring NAP implementation progress and providing feedback
- Supporting resource mobilization efforts and partnerships

### **Independent Reporting Mechanism**

The IRM is OGP’s independent accountability arm. Its primary role is to review Malaŵi’s progress in implementing the NAP and provide recommendations for improvement. Its responsibilities are to:

- Conduct independent reviews and assessments of the co-creation and implementation of the NAP
- Produce key reports (co-creation briefs, action plan reviews, midterm reviews, and results reports)
- Engage stakeholders for feedback
- Ensure transparency and accountability
- Support continuous improvement through capacity building

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<sup>10</sup>Can also be the co-chair.



**MONITORING,  
EVALUATION,  
LEARNING AND  
REPORTING**

# 7.0 MONITORING, EVALUATION, LEARNING AND REPORTING

Monitoring of the implementation of the commitments will be done quarterly by the NSC. The respective TWGs, supported by their Commitment Leads, will prepare and submit progress reports (including evidence) on the implementation of their respective commitments. The reports will be submitted to the Malaŵi OGP Secretariat, which will collate them for the NSC monitoring meeting. Representatives from the Commitment Lead agencies should attend the monitoring meetings of the Steering committee to speak about their reports. The monitoring reports will be prepared using the standard template below:

<b>Commitment</b>					
<b>Commitment Lead</b>					
<b>Milestone/ outputs</b>	<b>Assessment of Progress (Green/ Amber/Red)</b>	<b>Evidence supporting the assessment</b>	<b>Reasons for the assigned assessment status</b>	<b>Lessons and challenges</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>

### Colour codes for the assessment of progress:

Completed/substantial progress	Limited progress	Not started/with severe delays

Evaluation of the implementation and performance of this NAP will be carried out under the IRM framework as described under 6.2.5 above.

**ANNEX**

# ANNEX 1: REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The following documents were reviewed and consulted during the preparation of this report:

No.	Reference Document
1	Access to Information Act, 2016
2	Companies (Beneficial Ownership) Regulations, 2022
3	Case Study: Paladin Environmental Bond Agreement
4	Data Protection Act, 2024
5	Debt Situational Analysis Report, 2024
6	Digital Malawi Project Reports
7	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Reports and Local Adoption Strategies
8	Electronic Transactions and Cyber Security Act, 2016
9	National Digitalization Policy
10	National ICT Policy (2014; Revised 2023-2024)
11	Judicial Reform Bills: Judicial Service Administration Bill, 2024; Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024; and Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2024
12	MACRA Strategic Plan (2022-2027)
13	Malawi Vision 2063
14	Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (2022-2026)
15	Mines and Minerals Act, 2023
16	Malawi Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (MWEITI) Annual Work Plan
17	Malawi Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Bill, 2025
18	National Survey on Access and Use of Information and Communication Technologies by Households and Individuals in Malawi, 2023
19	Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendment) Act, 2022
20	Open Ownership Assessment Report on Malawi's Beneficial Ownership Regulations
21	Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act
22	Political Parties Act, 2018
23	Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Regulations, 2020
24	Public Finance Management Act, 2022
25	Public Private Partnership Act, 2022
26	Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Act, 2024



Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC)  
Private Bag 301,  
Capital City,  
Lilongwe 3, Malawi

Telephone: +265 1 773 702  
Fax: +265 1 773 954