



Draft Programme

National Policy-level Workshop

On the Fostering of Productive Capacities to Build Socioeconomic Resilience to Adverse Shocks and Realize the Development Vision of Malawi

(Sunbird Capital Hotel, Lilongwe, Malawi, 5-6 October 2023)

DAY 1: Thursday, 5 October 2023

08:30-09:30 Registration

09:30-10:00 Opening Session

09:30-09:40 Opening remarks by the Ministry of Trade and Industry

09:40-09:50 Opening remarks by RCO (tbc)

09:50-10:00 Introductory remarks by UNCTAD

10:00-10:30 Group Photo and Coffee & Tea Break

10:30-12:30 Session I: Malawi's national development vision "An Inclusively Wealthy and Self-reliant Nation" and policy formulation: challenges and opportunities for fostering productive capacities for the graduation from the LDC category.

This session will provide substantive foundation for key issues of deliberations at the workshop by assessing the current trends in socio-economic development of Malawi, progress achieved, and challenges confronted. In the session the views will be exchanged on Malawi's development visions and plans, including in the context of graduation from the LDC category. It will pay close attention to enablers and facilitators growth, economic diversification.

Moderator:

10:30-11:50 Presentations by Government institutions:

- Presentation on the Malawi 2063 Vision and the First 10 Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) 2021-2030.
- Presentation on the progress and plans related to LDC graduation and the main challenges to Malawi's Development in the context of the country being an LDC and LLDC

11:50-12:30 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 Session II: Productive capacities and structural economic transformation: measuring and benchmarking performances by using UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index (PCI) for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation in Malawi: Gaps and limitations and the way forward

This session is intended to relate the concepts of productive capacities and structural economic transformation to Malawi's development endeavours, including implications for graduation from the LDC category. The session will discuss UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index (PCI), which is an innovative approach applied by UNCTAD to measure and benchmark the level of development of productive capacities, and the National Productive Capacities Gap

Assessment as the prelude for building productive capacities. It will discuss the success stories concerned with building productive capacities and accelerating structural economic transformation and examine the level of productive capacities of Malawi with implications to national, regional policies as well as international support measures.

Moderator:

13:30-13:50 Malawi's Performance in UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index: **Mr. Mussie Deleegn**, Acting Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

13:50-14:10 Productive capacities and structural transformation in a comparative perspective – the success stories and the policy lessons learnt: **Mr. Andrzej Bolesta**, Economic Affairs Officer, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

14:10-14:30 Discussants:

14:30-15:00 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

15:00-15:30 Coffee and Tea Break

15:30-17:00 Session III: Infrastructure and connectivity in fostering productive capacities: the energy sector, ICT and transport

The process of building productive capacities requires improvements in infrastructure to galvanize countries' economic interaction and its growth. At the same time, Malawi's scores in the Productive Capacities Index' components on transport, energy and ICT are very low compared to its peers recruited from other African LDCs. This session will discuss the critical aspects of this infrastructure, namely, access to and development of energy resources and electricity, to ICT infrastructure and transport network.

Moderator:

15:30-16:30 Presentations by Government institutions:

- On the transport infrastructure and connectivity
- On the energy sector and the access to electricity
- On ICT development as facilitator of development.

followed by UNCTAD response.

16:30-17:00 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

DAY 2: Friday, 6 October 2023

09:00-10:30 Session IV: Key sectoral development challenges: agriculture modernization, manufacturing transformation and services development

This session will examine Malawi's main challenges to structural transformation and productive capacities' building and economic diversification from the sectoral perspective looking at the potential pillars and drivers of growth: modern agriculture, industry with important role of manufacturing, and services such as tourism. It will point to the manufacturing sector as desired focus of structural transformation.

Moderator:

9:00-10:00 Presentations by Government institutions:

- On the challenges of agricultural modernization and development
- On the challenges of industrialization through manufacturing
- On the challenges of developing the tourist sector and existing opportunities.

followed by UNCTAD response.

10:00-10:30 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

10:30-11:00 Coffee and Tea Break

11:00-12:30 Session V: International trade, foreign investments and regional integration as catalyzers of growth impeded by landlockedness.

The session will focus on Malawi's international trade and investment: challenges, developments and opportunities, in view of the country being landlocked and belonging to the LDC category. The discussion will also concern the investment policies (including FDI and in relation to establishing SEZ) and the role of the regional integration (in the form of the African Continental Free Trade Area), as opportunities to galvanize international economic interaction.

Moderator:

11:00-12:00 Presentations by Government institutions:

- On Malawi's international trade and related impediments
- On foreign investment and the policies to attract FDI and challenges of private sector development.
- On potential benefits from regional integration.

followed by UNCTAD response.

12:00-12:30 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

12:30-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-15:00 Session VI: Fostering Human Capital Development.

This session will focus on human capital as critical in ensuring the robustness of structural economic transformation and important factors in building productive capacities. It will discuss the gaps between the labour market's needs and the output of the educational system.

Moderator:

13:30-14:30 Presentations by Government institutions:

- On the challenges of the educational system
- On the challenges of human capital formation to address the labour market needs

followed by UNCTAD response.

14:30-15:00 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

15:00-15:30 Coffee and Tea Break

15:30-17:00 Session VII: Natural capital, institutions and policy coordination.

In the analysis conducted using Productive Capacities Index, the components on Institutions and Natural Capital in respect to Malawi recorded relatively high scores. The session will therefore focus on further development of institutions and the effective usage of natural capital for economic diversification. It will also identify policy and institutional arrangements for boosting the structural economic transformation, industrialisation and economic diversification and will try to answer the question as to how Malawi can foster sectoral linkages (backward and forward) to address key development challenges.

15:30-16:30 Presentations by Government institutions:

- On the potential related to the natural capital of the country and effective policy coordination to ensure structural change, economic diversification and building of domestic productive capacities
- On the challenges in institution building.

followed by UNCTAD response.

16:30-17:00 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

17:00-17:10 Concluding remarks by the Ministry of Trade and Industry