**Structural Economic Transformation**

We believe LLDCs have a more compelling case for diversify their economies away from primary commodities to high value manufactures. We are well aware of the potential of our young population in facilitation of industrial driven economy. We have some highly skilled labour but we believe it is not enough to carter for the existing and future demands of the economy. Equally important is the questing of matching the skills with the labour market. The skills development concept is also being promoted at the African Union level under the Agenda 2063. It is realized that for our continent to graduate from primary commodities to trade in manufactures we need to shape of our education and training institutions in Africa in a way that would allow them to produce according to the requirements of the job market. I am pleased to state that Africa is serious about addressing this situation and my country, Malawi is among the African Union Committee of ten Countries championing the education sector to work towards addressing the skills gap. To underlne our commitment to this drive, Malawi will host the 1st Summit of the AUs C10 in Lilongwe on 3rd November, 2018, which brought together representatives of governments, academics and private sector at pivotal level.

Nationally, we have embarked on a serious campaign to empower our youth, with strong emphasis on girls to make sure that they acquire the necessary skills for the labour market and also build capacity for them to become creators of decent jobs. We are doing this by rolling out vocational and technical education in all parts of the country through establishment of technical schools. The target is to ensure that no one is left behind among our youth. We believe this is an essential phase in the industrialization of the economy. Again this is to diversify away from primary products to high value goods which are less costly to transport.