Means of Implementation Partnerships and Follow up and Review

Malawi’s is implementing the Vienna Programme of Action through the national economic blueprint known as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (MGDS III) spanning 2017-2022. The Strategy has been aligned to regional, continental and international developmental commitments such as the VPoA, SDGs, and AU Agenda 2063 just to mention a few. The VPoA priority areas are mainstreamed in sectoral strategies including programmes, initiatives, and activities whereby all relevant stakeholders in the sector are involved.

Financing of these programmes and activities which are in line with VPoA are done through:

- Government annual funding to sectoral Annual Work Plans and Budgets
- Government also funds priority public programmes and projects through the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) which are consistent with the national strategy. The funding levels vary from 100% government funding or contribution of a percentage to the project cost which is mostly at 10%.
- Some projects are fully funded by development partners.
- Civil Society organisations run some programmes which they also fund
- Private sector is also involved in funding of VPoA activities

Challenges in financing VPoA related include:

(i) erratic flow of monthly funding commitments by government, and
(ii) delays in funding of project activities by development partners.

Partnerships have been drawn with our neighbouring countries i.e Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania in energy, trade and trade facilitation. Malawi has also taken advantage of regional integration and cooperation by signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements. These we have done bilaterally or under the umbrella of regional bodies such as SADC and COMESA to enhance strong partnerships.

Challenges in implementation of VPoA include:

- Limited knowledge on the priority areas among key players across the country.
- Inadequate resources.
- Lack of baseline information to report and assist to track progress on various interventions.
• Poor data for reporting purposes.
• Poor infrastructure and communication services.
• Inadequate research in some areas which have an impact on the social and economic aspects.
• Human and Technical capacity gaps in MDAs.
• Merging/Disbanding of Ministries has also affected implementation of some of the planned programmes and activities as priorities may change in such occurrences.

To ensure that VPoA related activities are implemented as planned and adequately financed, there is need for:

• More national awareness on VPoA among all stakeholders.
• Political commitment and championship of commitments and obligations is key to adoption and success of the programmes.
• Involvement of multiple stakeholders for effective implementation of international commitments and obligations.
• Provision of technical and capacity building assistance to MDAs.
• Ensure that international commitments such as the VPoA, SDGs etc, are domesticated and mainstreamed in country’s sectoral and national development agendas.
• Inclusion of VPoA priority areas in interventions in Ministries’ Annual Work plans and Budgets at all levels as this will assist in the implementation and monitoring through reporting under TWGs and SWGs.
• Ratification of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and other VPoA related agreements. And
• Ensure set implementation plans are implemented as required and are adequately financed in line with the sectors developed Annual Work Plan and Budgets.