

Resumed High-Level Segment (HLS) of COP 29/CMP 19/CMA 6
Statement by Farmers' Constituency
Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

My name is Betty Chinyamunyamu, I am the CEO of the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi, speaking today on behalf of the UNFCCC Farmers' Constituency.

In Malawi and across the globe, farmers are enduring the relentless impacts of climate change. Extreme weather patterns, prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, and frequent floods are destroying not just our crops and livestock but our entire livelihoods and future.

We urgently call for climate action that prioritizes the needs and solutions of farmers and is supported by adequate means of implementation. Access to land and water, availability of knowledge and information, adoption of locally appropriate technologies are not luxuries—they are necessities.

Food security must remain at the heart of climate policies and farmers' rights must be at the core of proposed solutions, including the development of carbon markets.

We also seek greater inclusion of farmers in UNFCCC processes and a strong role for us in the implementation of COP decisions. While farmers around the world have borne the brunt of 1/4 of climate-related losses and damages between 2008 and 2018, our Constituency has not been included in the Loss and Damage Fund Governance. This needs to change.

Let us work together to cultivate a future where farmers thrive, agriculture and food systems endure, and no one is left behind. The soil beneath our feet may be humble, but it holds the promise of life, resilience, and hope. Not just for farmers, but for everyone.

Thank you.