



Republic of Malawi

**CLOSING REMARKS BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR BINGU WA MUTHARIKA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI  
CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

**AFRICA-FRANCE SUMMIT**

**NICE, FRANCE**

**1<sup>st</sup> JUNE, 2010**

- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT NICHOLAS SARKOZY, PRESIDENT OF FRANCE;**
- **EXCELLENCIES, FELLOW HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY DR. JEAN PING, CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION;**
- **DISTINGUISHED FOREIGN MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS;**
- **AMBASSADORS AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES;**
- **DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

I am particularly happy that this 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Africa-France Summit was dedicated to resolve some of the pertinent challenges facing the globe today and more so adversely impacting on the social economic development of the African Continent.

I would like to thank President Sarkozy and other Heads of State and Government, for your commitment and determination to find long lasting solutions to some of the development challenges facing the globe today.

We have agreed that democracy, good governance, peace and security and climate development are cross cutting and urgent issues irrespective of geographic or economic position of our nations. These issues are more than urgent in Africa than ever before because past economic gains are at the verge of collapsing as a result of these challenges.

## **Excellencies,**

On behalf of the Governments and the peoples of Africa and on my own behalf, I would like to urge all of us to move a step further from drawing resolutions to actual implementation of these fine recommendations.

As we have observed during the debates, leadership is a driving force in ensuring good governance, peace and security and development. We need lasting peace in the Sudan, Niger, Guinea, the DRC, Madagascar and Somalia. In my view some of the causes of conflicts, wars and political instability in Africa include: unconstitutional changes of governments; tampering with national constitutions to allow individuals to extend their mandates to rule; lack of clear formulae for power changes or power transfers; and the non-observance of human rights and the rule of law. Any formula for peace in Africa must address these areas. It has to start with our leadership to lead by example, to ensure that the resolutions drawn today are implemented.

In our analysis of the place of Africa in global governance, we acknowledged that many African countries have moved a great deal to attain political emancipation. However, economic emancipation remains a challenge. Many of our peoples are struggling in extreme poverty.

Experience has shown that it takes good governance to ensure that economic prosperity is evenly spread across nations, regions and the globe. The strong voice that has been echoed throughout this Summit is that Africa needs a place in running of the Affairs of the World. The International community has to reposition itself to enable and not to hinder Africa to prosper.

Africa and France have resolved to work together to eliminate residual elements of instability, conflicts and barbaric acts of ascension to power

out of greed. We have called for united efforts to facilitation of peace and security globally. In the same vein, we also agreed to the fact that unequal sharing of the global and national economy and discriminatory systems of economic management fuels suspicions, hatred, and conflict insurgencies.

We are of the view that the international community and development partners will support Africa's development priorities which include food security and Agriculture development, transport and communication infrastructures, and Energy development among others. Furthermore, we also noted that the engagement of Africa as a partner in global peace and stability can accrue more gains than leaving it to be at the receiving end.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On climate change, it is important to stress that the effects of climate change and global warming are being felt by us all; and that we risk to lose a lot of our developmental gains and advancement if we do not act together now than later towards mitigation of climate change.

**God Bless the Africa - France Union  
I thank you all**