**SPEECH BY MATHEWS MALATA, CO- CHAIRPERSON, MOVEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION – MALAWI**

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed delegates,

I stand before you today not just as a representative of the Movement for Environmental Action in Malawi, but as a voice for a nation struggling to survive the relentless onslaught of climate change. Malawi, a country rich in natural beauty and cultural heritage, is now reeling under the weight of multiple cyclones, exacerbated by the merciless grip of El Niño weather conditions.

As we gather here in Berlin, thousands of miles away from the epicenter of our nation's suffering, I urge you to take a moment to truly understand the gravity of the situation. Our president has been forced to declare nearly all of our districts as disaster areas, pleading for urgent humanitarian aid and food support. The very fabric of our society is being torn apart by the ferocity of nature's wrath.

But let us be clear: Malawi is not alone in this struggle. The entire world is facing the consequences of climate change, albeit some more acutely than others. Yet, despite the mounting evidence and the impassioned pleas from vulnerable nations like ours, what do we see? Empty promises, hollow pledges, and the commercialization of vital international forums such as the Conference of the Parties (COP).

We do not need more stories. We do not need more rhetoric. What we need is action. Concrete, immediate, and unwavering action. Our people are not statistics to be analyzed or bargaining chips in political negotiations. They are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, whose lives hang in the balance with each passing day.

Therefore, I implore each and every one of you gathered here today to heed our call. Let us put an end to the empty theatrics of global summits, where lofty speeches are exchanged for the price of progress. Let us hold ourselves accountable to the promises we make, not just to each other, but to the millions of voices silenced by the fury of climate change.

The time for complacency is over. The time for half-measures and half-truths is over. It is time to act, decisively and collectively, before it is too late. For Malawi, for the countless other nations facing the brunt of climate change, and for the future of our planet.

Thank you.