THE 74thWORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, MAY 2021,

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI ON WHO GLOBAL DISABILITY ACTION PLAN 2014-2021. RESOLUTION EB148.R6 THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF HEALTH FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

AGENDA 26.4

PRESENTED BY

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, HON. DR. KHUMBIZE KANDODO CHIPONDA, MP

Mr / Madam President

The WHO Director-General

Honourable Members

Malawi has the honour to deliver this statement on WHO Global Disability Action Plan 2014-2021. Resolution Eb148.R6 :The Highest Attainable Standard Of Health For Persons With Disabilities.

As the Global population is growing, people are living longer and the emergence of non-communicable diseases (NCD), the need for rehabilitation services is on the increase. A recent World Health Organization (WHO) report suggests that 2.4 billion people are in need of rehabilitation services. To meet this huge demand, the importance for promoting and investing in Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) has never been more urgent.

Since 1979, any action or discussions under WHO or World Health Assembly (WHA) related to disability and rehabilitation have always been centered around CBR. However, in recent years especially in post-COVID era, when the need for community-based or home-based rehabilitation is most appropriate and most urgent, CBR is not being actively promoted by WHO and Member States.

Without CBR, achieving the goal of highest attainable standard of health for Persons with disabilities is unlikely to be accomplished. CBR is highlighted in

national disability and other development policies in many countries. There is ample documented evidence to demonstrate that CBR is significantly contributing to access to health services, economic empowerment and social inclusion of millions of Persons with disabilities living in poverty in resource scarce settings.

The absence of CBR in this Resolution will not mandate Member States to provide Financial and Human Resources for community-based and home-based services for persons with disabilities and to other vulnerable groups living in poverty and far from cities. Malawi supports the resolution but we ask that Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) be added and highlighted in the resolution.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank WHO and all our development partners for the support given to our country.

Thank you for your kind attention.