



JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 11TH SESSION OF THE JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI AND THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE HELD IN LILONGWE, MALAWI, ON 30TH MAY, 2023

1. The Government of the Republic of Malawi and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe held the 11th Session of the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation (JPCC) in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 28th to 30th May, 2023. This was in response to the invitation by Honourable Nancy Tembo, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi to Honourable Dr. Joram M. Gumbo, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe. The two Ministers co-chaired the JPCC.
2. The two Ministers led delegations comprising of Senior Government Officials from the two countries.
3. The JPCC was held in a friendly and convivial atmosphere reflective of the excellent relations subsisting between the two countries.
4. The two Ministers reviewed the state of bilateral relations between the two countries. They also reviewed progress that has been made in the implementation of joint decisions that were agreed upon during the 10th Session of the JPCC, held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 7th to 9th December, 2020, and explored new areas of bilateral cooperation.

5. The two Ministers noted, with satisfaction, the progress that had been registered in the implementation of the previous joint decisions. They underscored the need for the two States to maximise efforts in order to make up for the time that was lost due to the disruptions occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. The two Ministers welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on cooperation in the fields of Local Government; Police Matters; Gender; Forestry Management; Immigration; Energy; Information and Broadcasting. Negotiations were also concluded on instruments of bilateral cooperation between the two States' public broadcasters and news agencies, namely the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC); and Malawi News Agency (MANA) and Zimbabwe Inter-Africa News Agency (NEW ZIANA).
7. The two Ministers emphasised their commitment to conclude all outstanding MoUs and Agreements which are important in facilitating multi-sectoral cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two States.
8. The two Ministers noted the importance of ensuring that the citizens of the two nations are made aware of the outcomes of the JPCC to enable them to derive the benefits of the framework. They therefore called for the need to disseminate the outcomes.
9. The Ministers reaffirmed their mutual desire to intensify bilateral economic exchanges with a special focus on sectors that hold promise for mutual benefit. On this note, the two Ministers re-emphasised the importance of the private sector as key players in cementing economic cooperation between the two States. In this regard, the Ministers agreed to regularly convene the Malawi-Zimbabwe Business Forum, which will give their business communities a platform to meet

and compare notes on business opportunities that are available in the two States.

10. The two Ministers agreed on the need to further deepen the already strong people-to-people relations through promoting closer social and cultural cooperation and harmonising the two States' immigration and diaspora policies.
11. Honourable Nancy Tembo, M.P. expressed the Government of the Republic of Malawi's profound gratitude for the humanitarian support being rendered by Zimbabwe following the devastation caused by the occurrence of Cyclone Freddy in the Southern parts of Malawi. Honourable Dr. Joram Gumbo reiterated Zimbabwe's deepest sympathies and continued solidarity with the Government of the Republic of Malawi and the bereaved families.
12. Honourable Nancy Tembo, M.P. reaffirmed Malawi's unwavering commitment to support the call for the unconditional removal of illegal sanctions that were imposed on Zimbabwe by some Western States.
13. The two Ministers exchanged views on political, economic and social developments in their respective States. In this regard, Honourable Nancy Tembo, M.P. wished Zimbabwe successful and peaceful general elections, due to be held in August, 2023.
14. The two Ministers reaffirmed their support for regional solutions to the growing threats to peace and security in the region that is posed by terrorist activities in the Mozambican Northern Province of Cabo Delgado and by rebel groups operating in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

15. The two Ministers noted the growing situations of insecurity in some parts of Africa, including Mali, Burkina Faso and the Sudan and called for diplomatic and peaceful solutions to the conflicts.
16. On the global stage, the two Ministers noted the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on food supply chains and national economies. The two Ministers called for a diplomatic solution to the conflict that takes into account the security interests of the two States. The two Ministers noted that the conflict highlighted the need for both States to redouble our efforts so as to ensure food security in our two States.
17. The two States agreed to continue supporting each other's candidatures and positions at the multilateral fora.
18. The two Ministers reaffirmed the need for the reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in adherence to the Ezulwini consensus and the Sirte Declaration.
19. Honourable Dr. Joram M. Gumbo expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Malawi for the warm welcome and hospitality that was extended to him and his delegation during their stay in Malawi.
20. Honourable Dr. Joram M. Gumbo extended an invitation to his counterpart, Honourable Nancy Tembo, M.P., to the 12th Session of the JPCC, to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 2025.

Issued in Lilongwe, Malawi, on 30th May, 2023.