SAVE THE DATE

Malawi and UN Women cordially invite you to a side-event during the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on:

Opportunities for women to move up value chains in Malawi through economic empowerment for the vulnerable and most excluded

Date: Monday, 13 March 2017  
Time: 10:00 am to 11:15 am  
Venue: Conference Room A

Please RSVP at malawinewyork@aol.com

The Malawian Labour Force Survey (2013) shows that women have less access to decent work, higher levels of unemployment, lower levels of educational attainment, less beneficial employment statuses and higher levels of informal employment than men. At the continental level, however Malawi is among the three Member States in Africa that have more employment rate for women after Rwanda and Burundi.

Malawi would like to showcase some of the success stories the country has achieved in the area of women’s economic empowerment and the labour force interventions. Malawi has enacted laws, developed strategies and policies which promote social and economic justice for women. Some of the recent legal instruments are the Gender Equality Act, 2013, the National Action Plan for Women Economic Empowerment, 2016 and the National Gender Policy, 2015.
The Side Event will:

- To demonstrate successful economic empowerment initiatives that have the potential of taking women out of poverty.
- To demonstrate factors that are critical in the economic empowerment of women especially the poorest and most excluded.
- To share Malawi’s best practice for advancement of women empowerment and gender equality.

**Program:**

- Welcoming Remarks: His Excellency Necton D. Mhura, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Malawi to the UN
- Official Address: Hon Jean A.N. Kalilani, MP, Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Malawi
- Short video on Economic Empowerment of Women Strides made by Malawi.
- Presentation on GIZ supported Economic Empowerment Project for Cash Transfer Programme Beneficiaries in Mwanza
- Panel Discussion

**Panelists:**

- An Economically Empowered Malawian Woman, to show case how women can achieve economic empowerment.
- **Dr. Mary Shawa**, Secretary for Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Malawi, to showcase how Malawi Government commitment combined with the efforts of various local and international actors can lead to economic empowerment of women.
- A member of parliament to discuss the role of women parliamentarians in promoting economic empowerment of women.
- An official from an NGO to demonstrate importance of CSO’s and government collaboration towards the coordination and implementation of programmes that respond to economic empowerment.