

## **Patricias tekst:**

### **Good morning ladies and gentlemen**

I am very excited to be here, to meet the people who have been supporting Malawi's smallholder farmers for years.

For the record let me start by mentioning that this is the first time for me to travel by airplane and the first time for me to travel outside Malawi.

My name is Patricia Mkandawire, I am from Malawi. I am proud to be a farmer! We produce food for the people. Without farmers there will be no food! And food is something we all need.

I was selected as a lead farmer in 2015 and was trained by the Development Fund Norway. My main role as a lead farmer is to motivate my fellow smallholder farmers to adopt different climate smart agriculture practises. This is so that they will be better prepared for climate change. I started with 15 follower farmers, and at the most I had 50. People came from the whole village to learn – because they saw that what we did was working.

The impact of climate change has been difficult for farmers in Malawi. I trust it is the same for farmers in Norway.

In my country we experience climate change in many ways. The last years we have received very little rain, often it comes too late. We experience both droughts and floods. This makes it hard for farmers to produce enough food. It creates more poverty. The effects of climate change are making people's lives more difficult than before.

In addition to being a farmer, I am also a wife and mother of eight children – two pairs of twins actually. My family is the most important thing to me. Today our farm is very successful, but it has not always been that way. I have myself felt the impact of climate change. During the worst drought of my life, in 2001, I struggled to provide enough food for my children. There was no maize to make maize porridge, what we call only nsima, only vegetables. As a mother, for me, this was difficult. I took extra jobs at other farms to make a living. Today, I am happy to say that my family has enough food.

After becoming a lead farmer and learning climate adapted agriculture practises I produce six times more than before! Now I manage to produce enough to both feed my family and sell at

the market with profit. What I have left, I invest in my farm. I have invested in pigs and goats. And I use the animal droppings for organic manure for the plants.

The impacts of climate change is affecting us all. Farmers all over the world can see the effects of climate change. The weather is changing. Investing in sustainable food production is the solution to hunger and the climate crisis. I am a proof of that. I spend all my time inspiring others to do the same, by training other farmers, and by being here talking to you.

I'm looking forward to learn more from the farmers in Norway, and maybe teach you something as well. Together we can secure the world's food for the future and make an important contribution to solve the climate crisis. Thank you.