**INFORMATION FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS**

**The 74th Health Ministers Conference**

**10th – 12th February, Umodzi Park, Lilongwe**

**The Republic of Malawi**

### Welcome

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Malawi, in collaboration with the East, Central, and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), warmly welcomes you to the 74th Health Ministers Conference. We are pleased to have you join us for this significant event.

### About the Conference

The Conference will bring together Ministers of Health, Permanent/Principal Secretaries, Senior Officials from Ministries of Health, Experts, Researchers, Heads of Health Training Institutions, and collaborating Partners from both within the region and beyond.

### About ECSA-HC

The East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA-HC) is an inter-governmental organization that fosters and promotes regional cooperation in health. Member states of the ECSA Health Community are Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Eswatini, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Secretariat Headquarters of the Community is based in Arusha, Tanzania.

### About The Republic of Malawi

Malawi, often referred to as the "Warm Heart of Africa," is famous for its stunning landscapes, friendly people, and rich cultural heritage. It is home to Lake Malawi, one of the largest lakes in Africa, making it a paradise for nature lovers. Within this country is Lilongwe, the capital city, which acts as the political and administrative center of Malawi. Lilongwe serves as an inviting gateway for those wishing to explore the country's wonders. The official languages of Malawi are English and Chichewa.

### Venue & Accommodation

The conference will be held at Umodzi Park in Lilongwe, home to the Bingu wa Mutharika International Conference Centre (BICC) and the Umodzi Park Hotel. This state-of-the-art facility is renowned for its modern architecture, versatile meeting spaces, and cutting-edge technological amenities. With its exceptional facilities, it serves as the ideal venue for both local and international events.

Here is a list of recommended hotels to assist with your accommodation booking.

You can book directly with

1. **Umodzi Park Hotel (US$ 140)**

Email: wmagomero@umodzipark.co.mw

Phone: +265111789888, +265887387116

2. **Crossroads Hotel ($128)**

Email: btgm@crossroadshotel.net

Phone: 265888949852, +265999349852

**3. Sunbird Capital Hotel (MWK 355,393)**

Email: capitalres@sunbirdmalawi.com

Phone: +265888965119, +265111773388

4. **Sigelege Boutique Hotel (MWK 204,000)**

Email: reservations.boutique@sig elege.com

Phone: +265111717178

5. **Sogecoa Golden Peacock Hotel (MWK 180,000)**

Email: jkq\_mw@afecc.com

Phone: +2651776666

**6. Ufulu gardens (MWK 170,000)**

Email: reservations@ufulugardens.mw

Phone: +265996945277/+2651795268

The Ministry of Health will provide shuttle services from selected hotels, transporting participants to and from the venue from 10 to 12 February 2025.

### Registration

Online registration is currently open, and there will also be in-person registration at the venue from Sunday, 9th February to Monday, 10th February 2025. The Ministry of Health and the ECSA-HC Secretariat will oversee the registration process. You can find the link for online registration here: <https://ecsahc.org/hmc>.

### Traveling into Lilongwe, Malawi

Flights to Lilongwe, Malawi, are routed through Kamuzu International Airport (LLW). Several international airlines operate flights to Lilongwe, including Malawi Airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways, South African Airways, Rwandair, Airlink, and Qatar Airways, among others. Lilongwe International Airport is situated approximately 25 kilometers away from Lilongwe's Central Business District (CBD).

### Airport Shuttle arrangements

For Honorable Ministers and officials from the Ministries of Health, arrangements have been made to meet you on your arrival at the Kamuzu International Airport. Please send your travel itineraries/air tickets to the Secretariat for logistical arrangements. If there will be any change to your incoming flights please notify the Secretariat on email: doid@ecsahc.org and copy to regsec@ecsahc.org in good time before departure.

For self-sponsored participants, it is recommended to pre-arrange taxi pick-up with your hotel or use the official taxis available at the airport. The transportation rates from the airport to the Umodzi Park Hotel and other locations in the CBD range from USD 30 to 40.

### VISA/Other travel arrangements

For most East, Central, and Southern Africa member states, a visa is not required for entry into Malawi. However, it is advisable to contact the nearest Malawi Embassy for inquiries regarding specific entry requirements and visa regulations.

All participants should be in possession of a **Yellow Fever vaccination certificate.**

### Medical Information

The conference organizers will provide first aid services to participants for minor ailments during the meeting. Participants are advised to ensure they have adequate medical insurance coverage, covering travel time and the entire conference duration, against costs arising out of sickness, accidents, temporary or permanent disability, death and third-party risk.

### Currency

The official currency of Malawi is the Malawian Kwacha (MWK). Currency exchange facilities are available at commercial banks and Bureau de Change throughout the country. Additionally, Visa and MasterCard are accepted at ATMs and for paying hotel bills. However, it is advisable to carry local currency for shopping, dining, and local transportation.

### Weather and Clothing

In February, the weather in Lilongwe typically features warm temperatures. The average high during the day generally ranges from about 23 to 30 degrees Celsius (73 to 86 degrees Fahrenheit), while the average low at night can range from 16 to 20 degrees Celsius (60 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit).

### Safety and Security

In Lilongwe, as in many major cities, petty theft can be a concern. It is essential to stay alert and take precautions when carrying valuables. Be aware of your surroundings and keep your belongings secure to ensure a safe experience in the city.

### Finally

We wish you a pleasant flight and stay in the beautiful city of Lilongwe.

If you require further information or assistance in attending this conference, please contact the ECSA Secretariat and the Ministry of Health using the following contact details:

### Organizers Contacts

**Director General**

ECSA Health Community

P.O. Box 1009, Arusha Tanzania

Tel: +255 27 2549362/2549365

Fax: +255 27 254 9392

Email: regsec@ecsahc.org or doid@ecsahc.org

### Logistics and Programme Issues

### Mr. Sibusiso Sibandze - s\_sibandze@ecsahc.org

### Dr. Martin Matu – mmatu@ecsahc.org