

STATEMENT BY

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REPUBLIC OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS**

**FOURTH COMMITTEE
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

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Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost, I wish to congratulate you and your bureau on your election to lead the proceedings of this Committee. I assure you of my delegation's support and cooperation to bring the deliberations of this Committee to a successful conclusion.

Let me also congratulate the Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Alain Le Roy and the Under-Secretary General for Field Support (DFS), Ms Susana Malcorra, for their lucid presentations on Friday, 23 October, 2009. I also commend the Department OF Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Services (DFS), for producing the non paper, *A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping*.

Malawi aligns itself with the statements made by the delegation of Morocco on behalf the Non-Aligned Movement. Let me make some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to underscore the fact that international peace and security are prerequisites for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

However, prolonged conflicts and wars in many parts of the world have stood in the way of progress towards the achievement of those goals. Conflicts and wars continue to claim millions of lives, displace ordinary people from their homes, and cause untold suffering of innocent people and result in the degradation of the environment all around the world.

Many attempts and strategies have been employed to end wars and conflicts, and foster peace and security, but despite its shortfalls, none can surpass the legitimacy of the United Nations peacekeeping process in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security. The United Nations efforts, in this regard, are commendable and worthy of the support of Member States.

However, peacekeeping procedures need to be reviewed from time to time in order to improve their effectiveness with a view to achieving more with the limited resources available for peacekeeping and enhancing the participation of all states, big and small, in peacekeeping operations.

Indeed, while many countries have adequate human resources, they lack technical capacity needed for peacekeeping operations. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Operational Advisory Team within the DPKO to provide technical advice to member States who are ready and willing to contribute troops for peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman,

Peacekeeping operations demand a lot of financial and material resources. The huge amounts of money which could otherwise have been deployed to sustainable development initiatives, particularly in the least developed countries, are spent on expensive peacekeeping operations around the world, especially in Africa, arising from preventable conflicts.

In this regard, we call for the allocation of adequate resources to prevent potential threats to peace and security, and to support peacebuilding to prevent a recurrence of old conflicts. In this way, much less could be spent on peacekeeping operations and many more lives could be saved. Indeed, as the saying goes “prevention is better than cure”.

Mr. Chairman,

As much as the Security Council has primary responsibility to maintain peace and security, it needs to work in coordination and cooperation with the other organs and bodies of the United Nations, including the General Assembly, and engage governments more in its decision-making process.

After all, the ultimate goal for true peace is to achieve economic prosperity for all in a safe and secure environment. To achieve this objective, my delegation believes that the United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council, needs to reform its composition and working methods. In this regard, we are following with keen interest the current Inter-governmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform and urge all member States to ensure that those negotiations are concluded as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

True peace cannot be achieved without the active participation of women in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building. While we commend the efforts made so far in implementing Security Council resolutions 1325, 1888 and 1889, more needs to be done to increase the participation of women in the highest level decision-making positions in peacekeeping operations, conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peace-building, and post conflict reconstruction both in the field and at the headquarters level.

Mr. Chairman,

We commend the invaluable contributions and sacrifices of UN peacekeepers deployed in conflict zones, but we are also disheartened with stories of sexual abuse and exploitation perpetrated by some of them. Such behaviour tarnishes the image, integrity and credibility of the UN. The culprits should be made to answer for their despicable acts and be punished, accordingly.

On their part troop contributing countries should instill discipline in their troops to ensure compliance with acceptable norms of their duties. The zero tolerance policy on sexual abuse and exploitation should always remain our guiding principle.

Let me also commend the roles the African Union (AU) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) (to which Malawi belongs) in generating the necessary political commitment to end wars and conflicts and facilitating the maintenance of peace and security in Africa. Regional organizations play a useful role in responding to conflicts. Therefore, we cannot over-emphasize the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations such as the AU and SADC in this regard.

In conclusion, allow me to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all peacekeepers that have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty across the world's troubled spots. The UN should ensure that their passing was not be in vain.

I thank you for your attention.