



# **MALAWI**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HON. HENRY F. CHIMUNTHU BANDA, M.P.  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**AT THE**

**MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS  
OF DELEGATION OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

**DURING THE**

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## ***PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF MULTILATERALISM***

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to commend you for convening this important ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on such an important subject of multilateralism against a backdrop of several significant global events, which have brought this concept under strain and challenge. May I also extend to you Malawi's unqualified recognition of Malaysia's impeccable performance as chair of NAM since assuming office in February, 2003.

Mr. Chairperson,

The world today faces enormous challenges, which can only be addressed by the international community in concert through multilateral mechanisms. The creation of the United Nations in 1945 represented a general international acknowledgement that only a multilateral approach to various political, economic, and social problems could avert a repeat of the unnecessary horrors and devastation of the two world wars. The United Nations Charter which opens with "We, the peoples of the United Nations, determined to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war.." recognized and used as its bedrock a conviction in collective security and peace based on multilateralism. NAM's ideals of peace, justice and development derive inspiration from the United Nations Charter which must serve as the supreme guide in international relations and conflict resolution. As sovereign states, our collective approach to international problems only strengthens our resolve to create a world of peace, security and prosperity for all humanity in this century.

Mr. Chairperson,

The list of challenges confronting us collectively is inexhaustible. For example, urgent attention needs to be given to common concerns such as terrorism, peace and security, governance, peacekeeping, humanitarian intervention in conflict zones, poverty reduction and development, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as well as the environment, just to mention a few. In most of these issues, multilateralism has come under heavy test, almost rendering the concept irrelevant or inoperable.

Mr. Chairperson,

Terrorism is an age-old phenomenon which, however, has gained a new accent with the horrible events of 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2001. The international community, through the United Nations and NAM, has registered, in unison, its condemnation of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations. However, in recent times, unilateralism has emerged in a number of flashpoints in the world, most notably in Iraq. The end of conventional war in Iraq has not led to the resuscitation of multilateralism, which was battered at the launch of the war. The sidelining of the United Nations does, in many ways, account for the emergence of the current guerilla insurgency among the Iraqis who still violently react to foreign occupation. The United Nations needs to play a central role in the post-conflict transformation of Iraq.

The scourge of international terrorism and crime affects us all in many ways. For example, money-laundering has enhanced the financing of illicit cross-border and transnational trade in small arms and other lethal weapons used by terrorists whose military and bombing campaigns have led to wanton destruction of life and economies. Terrorist organizations operating through cartels, have destabilized internal financial institutions and increased the risks of travel, thus negatively impacting tourism and other economic activities. At no time in recent history since the end of the Second World War has human life experienced so much anxiety and insecurity. But these are anxieties that can competently be addressed through multilateral cooperation and synergy facilitated by the United Nations, whose role as the international nerve centre for peace and security NAM will always promote and support.

Mr. Chairperson,

National and international conflicts constitute tragedies in human history. However, conflict resolution can no longer feature as a single nation's enterprise in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The aftermath of a multilaterally brokered peace through the United Nations and regional bodies is followed by the crucial period of post-conflict transformation. This is a more challenging phase than the conflict itself as it involves costly reconstruction of a country in an atmosphere of bitterness over the devastation brought about by the conflict. Today, Iraq represents a case in point.

In Africa, multilateral peace efforts have led to the end of some of the most devastating military hostilities in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, and Liberia, to mention a few. The peace process in these countries

underlined the importance and effectiveness of multilateral approach to conflict resolution. The commendable performance of UN agencies such as UNDP, UNHCR and UNICEF in peace-building and reconstruction in war-torn countries has always proved unparalleled. NAM can, therefore, not over-emphasize the need to support international peace and security through the United Nations.

Mr. Chairperson,

The state of the world economy today forms an area of grave concern as poverty continues to rage unabated in the poor developing countries, thus putting into question the well-set poverty reduction targets contained in the Millennium Declaration. Africa is home to 34 least developed countries, most of them with gloomy and continually declining economic prospects. Poverty in Africa has been exacerbated by wars, natural disasters, as well as environmental degradation. Most of the people in these countries subsist on less than a dollar a day and cannot stand up to the challenges of self-reliance and sustainability single-handedly. The necessity of the involvement of the international community in addressing these problematic issues attests to the critical role of multilateralism in poverty eradication.

Mr. Chairperson,

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) needs to tap resources from the G8, the European Union, the United Nations agencies, and the Bretton Woods Institutions for its effective implementation. The key to the economic development of Africa lies in concerted collective strategic action at the international level. The fact that the developed economies must contribute 0.7 percent of their GDP towards Official Development Assistance (ODA) underscores the central place of multilateralism. The United Nations conferences such as the Monterrey Financing for Development and the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development have reminded us all about our collective responsibility towards social and economic development. It is, therefore, important that agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol designed collectively for environmental protection for development are adhered to as international obligations in the knowledge that preventable disasters such as global warming will incapacitate the whole world if left unchecked.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, multilateralism calls for a renewed accent in tackling global challenges of health, peace, security and development. Perhaps it is necessary to reiterate the sentiment expressed by the UN Secretary-General in support of

multilateral institutions which, indeed, foster respect for shared values and their obligations steeped in mutual respect and dignity.

The role of NAM in ensuring peace and development in this age of globalization and democracy must be upheld through creative leadership in a multilateral setting which holds the guarantees for human social order and survival. Only through multilateralism can the Millennium Development Goals be given meaningful expression and realization leading to some socio-economic gains to make a global difference in the world.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.