



**STATEMENT BY**

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**Checked against delivery**

**Mr. President,  
Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Heads of Delegations**

I am immensely delighted to address this August Assembly, on behalf of His Excellency Professor Bingu wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi, who could not attend due to other pressuring matters of state. I bring best wishes from my President to you Mr. President and the Secretary General. President Mutharika wishes you a very successful and productive General Assembly.

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Your Excellency, Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, on your election as the President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Your election is a clear manifestation of the confidence that the international community has, not only in you personally, but also in your great country, Qatar. I am more than confident that with your extensive experience as a diplomat, you will be able to steer this session to even greater heights. I assure you of Malawi's support, during your tenure of office.

Let me also pay tribute to His Excellency Mr. Joseph Deiss, outgoing President of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session, for his effective leadership during his term of office. Malawi and the whole of the African continent enjoyed our good working relationship with Mr. Deiss.

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon on being endorsed recently by the General Assembly, for a second term of office. The recent endorsement testifies the confidence we all have in his exemplary and outstanding leadership of our organization and the manner in which he discharges his responsibilities. Let me assure the Secretary-General that Malawi fully supports his efforts to muster the

enormous mandate here at the United Nations and looks forward to working with him as he leads through the process of making this organisation more relevant to the current global environment.

Let me join those that have congratulated and welcomed the delegation of the global family's newest member, South Sudan, for their gallant strides to statehood, after years of bloody conflict. The spirit of our dear brothers and sisters in Sudan, speaks volumes about the importance of contact and dialogue. Giving peace a chance, by providing space for the resolution of issues at a negotiating table, instead of resorting to blood-letting. I would also like to express my gratitude to the African Union, the United Nations and all those who worked hard in the resolution of the Southern Sudan issue. It is my Government's hope that the process will continue in order to reach a conclusion on the remaining issues.

**Mr. President,**

Malawi applauds the timely theme chosen for this year's General Debate, entitled "the role of mediation in the settlement of disputes by peaceful means". Indeed the world seems to be in turmoil and the world state of affairs has become more complex and complicated, requiring a myriad of measures to reach solutions and the peaceful settlement of disputes. And more increasingly, while national issues continue to arise, we can no longer solve issues with inward focus alone, since both outside and inside shocks and forces continue to weigh-in, rendering small and sometimes big nations vulnerable.

The role of mediation in the settlement of disputes cannot be overemphasized. I wish, therefore, to applaud the efforts of the United Nations, African Union, Regional Economic Organizations and other International Organizations for the commendable role that they play to settle disputes.

The recent economic and financial crisis that have impacted on the global markets, have not spared much of the developing world. Sub-Saharan countries like Malawi, find themselves vulnerable, as the effect of problems originating in the developed world manifest themselves in the escalation of food and other commodity prices in the developing countries. The historic changes in the Arab world have also compounded these problems, as prices of oil are steadily rising.

**Mr. President,**

Prior to the severe impact of the global economic crisis, according to the 2010 MDG Report released by the United Nations, Malawi was on the threshold of being on track to meeting five out of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) by 2015.

Ambitious targets have been set for the achievement of the MDG's through the medium term national development strategy, namely Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS), which provides a framework for achieving MDGs and continues to report progress achieved in attaining the eight MDG's on an annual basis. Malawi is confident that it will attain most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. This is largely because Malawi has embraced the MDGs in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS), which is designed in a manner that addresses all the MDGs.

The MGDS, Malawi's development blue print, focuses on agriculture and food security, irrigation and water development, transport and infrastructure development, education, science and technology, energy, mining and industrial development, integrated rural development, climate change, natural resources and environment management, youth empowerment, public health, sanitation, HIV and AIDS management.

**Mr. President,**

Progress toward achieving the MDGs in Malawi can be attributed to Government's good agricultural and economic policies. As His Excellency Prof. Bingu Wa Mutharika has said often, "Without food, the medicines and drugs in hospitals and clinics become ineffective or even dangerous to the sick; without food, children cannot learn well in schools; without food the labour force cannot be productive; without food you cannot maintain the police service and national defence forces; and without food we cannot maintain peace keeping forces anywhere in the world."

As one way to assist in curbing youth unemployment and rapid urban migration, Malawi introduced the Malawi Rural Development Fund (MARDEF), the Youth Enterprise Development Fund and the One Village One Product Scheme (OVOP). Malawi has also registered remarkable progress in the areas of child mortality, HIV and AIDS and malaria. Furthermore, under-five mortality rate has declined from 189 deaths per 1,000 in 2000 to 112 deaths per 1,000 in 2010 while HIV prevalence rate reduced in the same period.

**Mr. President,**

The severe natural disasters that have occurred in different parts of the world that had never happened before have become a frequent phenomena. These calamities have since exacerbated the already financial and economic crises that the world is experiencing. Therefore, there is indeed a great need to join hands to tackle these challenges.

You will agree with me that although the world is facing the economic and financial crises coupled with various natural calamities, the most affected are the Least Developed Countries of which Malawi is part. The main objective of attaining the Millennium Developed Goals by the international community is to ensure that the livelihood of the poor and

disadvantaged is improved and that a number of LDC's graduate from this category into the middle income countries. It is, therefore, my government's desire that the commitments made at the Istanbul Programme of Action that was adopted in May, 2011, will be fully implemented by all partners.

**Mr. President,**

Climate change has become a challenge to human existence with multidimensional threat to human life and all living things, global ecosystem and human civilization. It has a direct impact on our efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and preserve ecological balance.

Malawi is one of the African countries adversely affected by the effects of climate change and global warming, although it has not contributed at a large scale to the carbon gas emissions. Food security and biodiversity, among others, faces serious threats due to climate change. Increasing floods and natural disasters are indeed causing havoc to lives and resources. It is my wish that the upcoming Conference of States Parties (COP 17) scheduled to take place in South Africa, concludes a positive agreement based on the Bali Plan of Action, with agreed on cuts on gas emissions and also adopted measures to ameliorate the adverse impacts of climate change faced by the most vulnerable countries.

**Mr. President,**

As we are all aware, no meaningful development can take place in the absence of peace and security. Resurgence of armed conflict, especially in Africa, and attempts by some to unconstitutionally change governments, remains the biggest obstacle towards achieving economic prosperity and development for our people.

Malawi remains committed to the promotion of peace and security,

democracy and good governance. In this regard, Malawi wishes to call upon this August Assembly, to redouble its efforts, to eliminate the current conflicts, prevent the occurrence of new ones, and continue to condemn, frustrate and isolate those who seek to come to power through corrupt and unconstitutional means.

On her part, Malawi will continue to play an active role through the contribution of troops to the United Nations sanctioned and mandated peacekeeping operations.

As we are all aware that people throughout the world have an inalienable right to self-determination, the continuation of colonialism in any form, is therefore, counterproductive to social, economic and cultural development. While we acknowledge that decolonization is one of the more visible achievements of the United Nations, and that there are fewer than 2 million people living under colonial rule in the remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing-Territories, there is still a long way to go. Our task is not finished. The many commitments we have made in the past need to be fulfilled.

As we move to the third international decade for the eradication of colonialism, (2011 to 2021), we recognize the need to self determination for all those, still under colonial rule. We, therefore, urge the United Nations, to renew its commitment to ensure that all non-self governing territories, exercise their right to self determination. Malawi, also, applauds those administering powers who are providing an opportunity for the people in their territories to freely choose their destiny. In this vein, Malawi urges the Special Committee on Decolonization, (the Committee of 24) to pursue genuine dialogue aimed at finding fresh and more creative ways to eradicate colonialism.

We acknowledge the enormous task that the Security Council has in fulfilling its mandate to ensure that there is peace, security and harmony in this world. Malawi pledges to continue to contribute positively to the maintenance of international peace and security, through, among other things, supporting the mandate of the Security Council in all its aspects as required.

In this regard, my delegation wishes to highlight its concern at the slow pace at which the reform of the Security Council is moving. More than fifteen years have now passed since the process began, and there appears to be no tangible progress in moving the process forward. We, in Africa are desperate to see that the historic injustice done to our continent at the inception of the United Nations is addressed as soon as possible by granting Africa two permanent seats with all the privileges and prerogatives as the current permanent members, including the right to veto if it is maintained, and a total of five elected seats.

**Mr. President,**

Our common African position as stipulated in the Ezulwini Consensus clearly provides a solution to the long awaited reform of the Security Council, and it is only fair and right that Africa's proposal is adopted, as it is the only continent not represented in the permanent category and underrepresented in the non permanent category. Additionally, the bulk of the work of the Security Council is currently in Africa.

It is, therefore, imperative that Africa should be a major part of the decisions making process that concern the continent, truly making this year's theme "the role of mediation in the settlement of disputes by peaceful means," both timely and appropriate.

**I thank you all for your attention.**