



Malawi

**STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. LOT DZONZI

DURING THE 72ND SESSION OF THE

THEMATIC DEBATE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

12 Oct 2017

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Since Malawi is speaking for the first time, let me take this opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations to Your Excellency, Ambassador Mohammed Hussein Ali Bahr Aluloom on your election as the Chairman of the 72 session of the Disarmament and International Security (first Committee) and your entire bureau.

Malawi aligns itself with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Egypt, on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman

Let me begin with a quote by the former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Kim Won-soo *“A nuclear-weapon-free world is a collective and shared responsibility of the entire international community. There is more than one path to reach that destination. Unfortunately there are growing differences to get there”*.

Mr. Chairman

Building upon the heightened awareness of the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, the General Assembly decided to convene in 2017 a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading to their total elimination. This decision carried forward the recommendation of the Open-ended Working Group taking forward

multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, which met in 2016 with a mandate to substantively address concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons,

Mr. Chairman

The Conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons completed its work on 7 July 2017, by adopting a Treaty that would ban such weapons of mass destruction with a view to their total elimination. By the terms of the Treaty the text was adopted by a recorded vote of 122 in favour to 1 against with 1 abstention. The treaty states that each State party would never, under any circumstances, develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. In addition, States parties would never transfer such weapons or devices; use or threaten to use them; or allow them to be stationed, installed or deployed on their territory.

Mr. Chairman

Malawi does not have nuclear weapons nor does it intend to produce any, but the impact of a nuclear weapon detonation, irrespective of the cause, would not be constrained by national borders and could have regional and even global consequences, causing destruction, death and displacement as well as profound and long-term damage to the environment, climate, human health and well-being, socioeconomic development, social order and could

even threaten the survival of humankind. It is in this regard that Malawi signed the treaty to ban nuclear weapons on 20 September 2017.

Mr. Chairman

Malawi, has also in the past signed similar treaties such as the Pelindaba Treaty (African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty). The Treaty prohibits the research, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, testing, possession, control or stationing of nuclear explosive devices in the territory of parties to the Treaty and the dumping of radioactive wastes in the African zone by Treaty parties.

Malawi is also a signatory to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). OPCW encompass the states who have signed and ratified or acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention, an international agreement outlawing the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

Malawi shall continue to cooperate with other like-minded States and International Actors for the achievement of these goals.

Chair, Excellences and Distinguished Delegates;

The Treaty represents an important step and contribution towards the common aspiration of a world without nuclear weapons.

Malawi hopes that this new treaty will promote inclusive dialogue and renewed international cooperation aimed at achieving the long overdue objective of nuclear disarmament.

Let me conclude with another quote by the current UN Higher Representative for Disarmament Affairs Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu *“The conclusion of the Treaty should be seen as a beacon of hope for all those who have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of a nuclear-weapon-free world”*.

I thank you!