



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

MR LOT DZONZI

**AT THE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

New York, 21 October 2015

Mr. Chairman

Since Malawi is taking the floor for the first time, let me join my colleagues to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the first Committee during the 70th session. Malawi pledges to support your leadership and the work of your committee. Malawi aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non- Aligned Movement (NAM) and statement made by the African Group.

Mr. Chairman

Malawi reiterates that humanitarian imperatives lie at the heart of the call for a world free of Nuclear Weapons and remains deeply concerned about the lack of progress towards this goal, despite the various undertakings and commitments made by Nuclear Weapon States to this end. This was not what the International Community envisaged when the UN General Assembly adopted its first resolution in 1946, which sought to initiate a process to achieve “the elimination of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable for mass destruction”.

Imagine, 70 years after the use of two nuclear bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, hospitals in Japan are still treating victims for the long term health consequences they’ve experienced. Such consequences make it imperative to prohibit nuclear weapons.

The humanitarian initiative has shown that we have a legal gap that has to be filled, and this can only be addressed by developing another legally binding instrument to outlaw and eliminate these weapons. Malawi, just like the other African states support this position. Nuclear-armed states should comply with their nuclear disarmament obligations and non-nuclear-armed states should increase pressure on them to do so.

Malawi, as a signatory to the Pelindaba Treaty (African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty), our goal throughout the disarmament discourse, is a world free of Nuclear Weapons. Malawi shall continue to cooperate with other like-minded States and International Actors for the achievement of this goal. Early this year we wrote the Government of Austria pledging our support to the Pledge which the Austrian Government made at the end of the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. The government of the Republic of Malawi wishes to reiterate its unweaving support towards the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. We need to ban nuclear weapons! And we need to produce

annual reports on the progress made in implementing disarmament and non-proliferation of Nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman

This explains why Malawi has submitted the first report pursuant to Operative Paragraph 4 of the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1540. This followed from the Joint Meeting of the Malawi Stakeholders for the Production of Malawi's National UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Report from 6 to 7 August 2014 in Lilongwe. Thankfully, the workshop was organized by the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (ONUDA) in collaboration with the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Development in Africa (UNREC).

Mr. Chairman

It is important to remember that Resolution 1540 imposes mandatory obligations on all UN states to adopt legislation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, as well as to establish appropriate domestic controls to prevent their illicit trafficking. It also encourages enhanced international co-operation on such efforts. The obligations set up by Resolution 1540 (2004) are binding on all States, regardless of their membership in multilateral agreements. Resolution takes a cooperative and not a punitive approach to non-proliferation. Resolution 1540 does not conflict with other disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, rather the instruments are mutually reinforcing. As such, Malawi reiterates its commitment to the objective of the resolution 1540, which is to prevent the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) to Non- State Actors (NSA) by complimenting existing non-proliferation instruments.

Mr. Chairman

Resolution 1540 compliments relevant multilateral treaties and arrangements to which Malawi is a party such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions (BWC) and Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). As a matter of policy, Malawi does not manufacture, procure, possess or supply weapons of mass destruction. The country does not intend to do so in future. In addition, the Malawi Government has established a National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention, Counter-Terrorism Committee and recently, the National Authority for Biological Weapons. These inter-agency

structures are meant to steer the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation treaties by Malawi.

Mr. Chairman

In terms of adoption and implementation of non-proliferation treaties, Malawi is a party to and fully implements all the requirements of the NPT, CWC and the BTWC. Malawi places importance on implementing all the provisions of such multilateral treaties including those covering nuclear disarmament. Malawi is also setting up a Technical Committee to adopt national rules and regulations to ensure compliance with its commitments under the key multilateral non-proliferation treaties. Malawi is committed to multilateral co-operation within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (OPCW) and the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention (BTWC) in order to achieve common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and to promote international co-operation for peaceful purposes and for adequate resources and assistance to be provided for developing countries. Malawi has developed appropriate ways to work with, and inform, industry and the public regarding their obligations under disarmament and non-proliferation laws on an on-going basis.

Mr. Chairman

Malawi wishes to salute the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for their inputs in support of elimination of Nuclear Weapons during this year's conference on Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which was held here in New York from 27 April-22 May, 2015. Though the meeting did not reach a consensus on the way forward, because of the persistent divergence of expectations that made it impossible to produce a consensual document, Malawi emphasizes that the treaty belongs to all and underlines the imperative for every country to demonstrate willingness to compromise in future.

Malawi supports the proposals and resolutions for negotiations of the new treaty banning nuclear weapons to commence urgently in a forum open to all and blockable by none, even without the participation of nuclear-armed states.

I thank you