MALAWI STATEMENT
DELIVERED BY

HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR CHARLES P. MSOSA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 28 ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
Mr. Chair,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, for the excellent manner in which you are conducting the work of the Committee.

Malawi aligns itself with the statements delivered by the delegation of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Ethiopia speaking on behalf of the African group and the delegation of Namibia that spoke on behalf of the SADC.

Malawi would like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports under this agenda item and takes note of the recommendations contained therein.

Mr. Chair,

As we advance towards the April 5, 2015, which is the end line for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Malawi finds herself amongst a group of countries which have registered limited and uneven progress in attaining the MDGs. Although we have been rated as one of the 20 best performing countries in Africa by the MDG Report 2013, we are only on track to achieving four of the MDGs. These are MDG 1, MDG 6, MDG 7 and MDG 8. However, we are off track on achieving MDG 1, MDG 2, MDG 3 and MDG 5. As
can be seen, the goals that Malawi is off track have a feminine dimension.

Mr. Chair,
Gender equality and the empowerment of women is a development goal with synergistic and multiplier effects on the other goals, consequently the Malawi Government, in cooperation with key development partners and civil society has adopted the MDG Acceleration Framework Action Plan.

The framework, which is a tool for accelerating the attainment of the MDGs which are behind schedule, has identified four intervention priority areas namely: improving girl child school attendance and retention, improving the economic status of women, promoting participation of women in decision making positions and reducing gender-based violence (GBV).

Mr. Chair,
It is worth mentioning that Malawi, motivated by having its first female President, is investing heavily in gender equality and the empowerment of women being central to many interventions the government is undertaking. Indeed gender equality and the empowerment of women have human rights dimensions as well as social, economic and political development dimensions. Furthermore, the achievement of the MDGs are in the main, dependent on gender equality and the empowerment of women.
Malawi is making good progress on gender equality and empowerment of women through, among other measures, the appointment of more than 100 women in influential positions since last year when Dr. Joyce Banda took over as President of Malawi.

In 2014, Malawi will hold presidential, parliamentary and local government elections. Preparations are underway to increase the number of women in the Legislature and in the District, Town and City Assemblies.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, please allow me to thank our cooperating partners for their unwavering assistance in supporting gender equality and empowerment of women initiatives in Malawi led by the President, Dr. Joyce Banda.

I thank you for your attention.