MALAWI STATEMENT
DELIVERED BY

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OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 25: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND FOOD SECURITY

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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, at the outset, to express my delegation’s appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report under this agenda item. The recommendations and conclusions contained therein are sound and deserve serious consideration by this committee.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Fiji and Ethiopia, on behalf of G77 and China, and the African Group, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

There is a disheartening paradox of today’s global food and agriculture economy; while the world is producing more food commodities than ever, food insecurity is however increasing. Malawi believes that addressing food security requires a comprehensive approach that strengthens the agricultural sector. This requires firm political, economic, social and financial commitments involving all stakeholders. My delegation welcomes the United Nations Secretary-General’s Zero Hunger Challenge, launched in 2012, which has given and will continue to provide sound policy options in addressing food security in Malawi.

Mr. Chairman,

In Malawi, the tackling of the problem of food security and poverty has been one of the priorities of the Malawi Government, in its
quest to achieving economic growth. The sector has massive potential in ensuring food security, fighting poverty and providing employment to the people of Malawi. In short, the sector is crucial to the country’s achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

However, while Malawi is well endowed with arable land and water bodies, the resources are not used to the full potential and in a sustainable manner mainly because of a lack of appropriate and affordable agricultural technologies.

Furthermore, Malawi’s population has grown over the last decade. As such, this has exerted more pressure on the country’s natural resources, thereby posing new challenges for their conservation and sustainable use to achieve food and nutrition security.

These challenges require coordinated interventions by all stakeholders in the agricultural and natural resources sector.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It is very sad to note, that despite efforts to combat food security in Malawi and also the sub-Saharan region, reports still depict that hunger remains a major challenge in the region. The 2011 Global Hunger Index, released by the International Food Policy Research Institute, highlighted that although global hunger had declined since 1990, it still remains a serious challenge, especially in Sub-
Saharan Africa. Attesting to this finding, the 2012 report by the UNDP entitled, ‘towards a food secure future,’ indicated that the Sub-Saharan region was characterized by a pervasive and dehumanizing nature of hunger.

Mr. Chairman,
The Government of Malawi, through the Economic Recovery Plan (ERP), has prioritized, amongst other sectors, agriculture as a sector that has a huge potential to accelerate the country’s economic growth.

The ERP looks at agriculture not only as a means to attaining household and nutritional food security, but as a business through which farmers can generate wealth and, in the long run, Malawi, could attain more economic growth.

Malawi has registered satisfactory food production at the national level during the 2012/2013 growing season, however, it is expected that there will be problems of food security at household level in some parts of the country. Production in these areas have been affected by a mixture of late onset of rains, early cessation of rains, erratic rains, prolonged dry spells and flooding.

Mr. Chairman,
As highlighted in the Secretary-General’s report on agricultural development, food security and nutrition; Africa, with the support of
the international community is leading the implementation of a number of programmes under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and in particular, the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

In line with this initiative, the implementation of agricultural programmes in Malawi has already embraced the principles of CAADP, which has assisted in prioritizing our interventions on areas that have high impact in the sector.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As further alluded to in the Secretary-General’s report, indeed, Malawi is one of the beneficiaries of the new alliance for food security and nutrition, launched by the Group of 8 in 2012. Through this alliance, Malawi has seen a tremendous boost in the agriculture sector.

The new alliance concept is about having strong partnerships with the private sector and conducive policies for investment. Hence, this is the sole reason why the Government of Malawi adopted the Agricultural Sector Wide Approach (ASWAP), to enable it guide investments in the agricultural sector. Therefore, the coming in of the alliance for food security and nutrition will only serve to strengthen the Agricultural Sector Wide Approach in Malawi.
Mr. Chairman,

Let me take this opportunity to extend my Government’s appreciation to the tremendous opportunity created by the donor partners, philanthropists and the private sector to support Malawi’s efforts to generate greater investment in agricultural development, achieve sustainable food security outcomes, eradicate poverty and end hunger, among others.

However, Mr. Chairman, it is my delegation’s wish, that the international community will continue to support developing countries like my own country, Malawi, that are lagging behind in most of the MDGs, more particularly, in addressing the causes of malnutrition and hunger.

Thank you for your attention.