The Permanent Mission of Malawi
to the United Nations

Statement of

H.E. Charles P. Msosa
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi
to the United Nations

to the
Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)

On Agenda Item : 53

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION
OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

(Please check against delivery)
Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the Under-Secretary General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Herve Ladsous, and the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support, Mrs. Ameenah Gopah for their informative and comprehensive briefings to this committee on Monday, 28th October, 2013. We are assured of their continued insightful leadership in providing direction and support for Peacekeeping Missions currently underway in various regions of the world.

Malawi would like to align itself with the statement delivered to this committee by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-aligned movement. That said, permit me, Mr. Chairman, to make additional comments in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

As you are aware, Malawi has been participating in peacekeeping missions since 1994. Throughout the years, our men and women have served in these missions with a high level of professionalism, dedication, courage and discipline. Recently, Malawi has deployed a battalion to be part of the Force Intervention Brigade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2098 earlier this year. This, and our participation in the years that have gone by, demonstrates Malawi’s commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security because we believe that there can never be meaningful development when there is no peace. In this regard, Malawi therefore, would like to thank our cooperating partners who have been assisting us in providing pre-deployment training, equipment and expertise, most notably, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, and South Africa.

Mr Chairman,

While carrying out their important duties, peacekeepers have been subjected to targeted attacks and killings committed by enemies of peace. These attacks have resulted in the loss of lives of some of our
brave men and women who committed their lives, skills and energy to bring peace and stability in conflict prone areas of the world. These atrocities demoralize our peacekeeping efforts and should not continue unabated. We therefore pay tribute to all peacekeepers for their courageous acts in their efforts to restore peace and stability in conflict hit regions of the world and we condemn in the strongest terms the targeted attacks of UN peacekeepers. At the same time, we send our condolences to the families of the 79 peacekeepers that have lost their lives this year alone. In particular we condole the Government and the people of Tanzania for the loss of one of their own while serving in the DRC.

We hope the loss of all the peacekeepers shall not be in vain.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is also disheartened by reports of sexual violence and abuse against women and girls in conflict zones. Such barbaric and demonic acts fly in the face of our goals of protecting civilians in armed conflict and we urge governments and the international community to ensure that perpetrators of such crimes are investigated and brought to justice.

In conclusion, Malawi underlines the importance of stronger cooperation between troop and police contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat and host governments. We believe that there is need to maintain comprehensive briefings on each peacekeeping operation, information sharing, and consultations, if appropriate and timely decisions concerning peacekeeping have to be made.

We also call for an increase in the participation of qualified women in peacekeeping operations, both in the field as well as in decision making positions. Together with their male counterparts, women will be able to contribute effectively in ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security, the core purpose for which the United Nations was established.

I thank you for your attention.