



**REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR ARTHUR PETER**

**MUTHARIKA**

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**AT THE**

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 70<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Your Excellency President of the General Assembly**

**Your Excellency, Secretary General of the United Nations**

**Excellencies Heads of State and Government**

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you, Mr. President on your election as President of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Your credentials are impeccable, and I am confident that you will steer the affairs of this august body to a successful conclusion, with all your objectives and aspirations fulfilled. I assure you of my delegation's support.

Let me also thank His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, outgoing President of the GA, from our sister country Uganda, for his untiring efforts during his presidency. His dedication to the work of the UN is commendable. I also reiterate Malawi's support to the Secretary General, as he strives to realize the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Mr. President,**

The theme of this year's general debate, "**The UN at 70: the road ahead for peace, security and human rights,**" has come at the most opportune time, for it fittingly summarizes the core business of the

United Nations, at its inception, now and in future, that is, the maintenance of international peace and security.

**Mr. President**

The UN was created on the understanding that peace is not just the absence of war but that it comes with struggles, compromises, sacrifices and choices we make as nations and as individuals, for the benefit of humanity. We cannot realize a complete sense of peace without justice, dignity and freedom.

We can rejoice that in the seventy (70) years of the work of the UN, we have collectively averted another world war, however, during the same period, we have lived in fear, and uncertainty, in a world tainted by conflicts, poverty and violence that have endangered our own existence.

**Mr. President,**

As we live in this imperfect world, the pursuit for peace should be our main goal if we are to shape a promising world for our future generations. I must, therefore, commend the Secretary General for convening the High Level Panel on Peace Missions, to review the current UN peace operations, and the emerging needs of the future in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. The report of the panel, submitted in June this year, has highlighted some important issues that I feel, as members of the global family, need to consider and take

seriously. I would like to mention just a few of the issues which demand our attention as members of the UN.

- Peace missions should be guided by a focus on political solutions, whereby emphasis should be placed on conflict prevention through political means, with bias on people-centered solutions as well as protection of civilians.
- There is need for comprehensive peace and security partnerships involving the United Nations Security Council, regional actors and national mechanisms.
- The UN should take the responsibility to compensate the abused
- There is greater need for political will by all actors to peace missions, to just mention a few.

**Mr. President,**

Let me now touch on another important issue which has been on the agenda of the UN for quite some time; that is, the reform of the United Nations Security Council. I have followed with keen interest the intergovernmental negotiations on how the Security Council can be reformed to make it more representative, effective, transparent and accountable to all. The Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration are our guiding principles in this endeavor.

Our quest for peace and security should be hinged on sustainable socioeconomic development for our people; development that has a true meaning and reflection in the lives of our people. Despite varied progress among Member States, and developing countries in particular, the Millennium Development Goals - MDGs have proved that unity of purpose is critical to transforming the world to be a better place for our children and future generations.

My government is grateful to development partners who worked with us for Malawi to achieve four of the eight MDGS namely; reducing child mortality; combating HIV and AIDS, Malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing a global partnership for development. It is evident that as a country we are embarking on the implementation of the post-2015 Development agenda with unfinished business. It is, therefore, imperative that as we move to implement this new global development agenda, we should be mindful of the important role that global partnership for effective development cooperation plays in ensuring successful implementation of programmes in the developing countries.

**Mr. President,**

We in Malawi are also glad to reiterate the fact that, as we look to the Sustainable Development Goals, we can draw international pride and inspiration from the achievements we have made collectively on MGD Goal number six - which had to do with *"halting and reversing the HIV and AIDS Epidemic"*. Under this goal, we aimed to put 15 million

people on treatment globally and we can stand here today, and boldly declare that we met this target! As we look to the Sustainable Development Goals Era, we must commit, as an international community, to end AIDS as a public health threat and to finish the business of HIV and AIDS by 2030.

My government has already committed to doing so, and current evidence shows that Malawi is well on the way to achieving this goal. Together, we can end AIDS by 2030 but it will require that we do business unusual, it will require that we fast track HIV responses in line with the evidence for what works, but more importantly, it will require continued shared responsibility and global solidarity for financing HIV programmes and enhancing the capacity of developing countries such as Malawi, to manufacture drugs and make them more accessible for our people.

Having said that, **Mr. President**, let me also reiterate what I have always maintained that, all the above wonderful programmes will be realized when as a global family, we do not leave the youth, and our women behind. In Malawi, and I believe, in almost all developing countries, the youth and women, constitute the majority of the populations. Therefore, it is only natural that they are adequately represented at all decision-making levels of society. Late President of the Republic of South, the icon, Nelson Mandela, once said, '*... as long as the nation refuses to acknowledge the equal role of more than half of itself, it is doomed to failure.*' This is a fact!

Let me, commend President Xin Ping of China, and UN Secretary General, through the Offices of UN Women, for organizing on the margins of this GA., the **Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, under the theme: 'Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality'**, to which a number of leaders made national commitments, including Malawi.

My government is committed to the 'He-for-She Campaign' to address gender inequalities, and end gender-based violence, promote women political participation and facilitate the economic empowerment of women. It has therefore been singled out as one of the core priority areas of our revised Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, a blueprint of Malawi's development.

Malawi also took advantage of this forum, to host a side event entitled 'High-level Event, and share perspectives on **"Demographic Dividend and Investing in Youth,"** which we hope will successfully lead us to an improved coordination, commitment and support for youth empowerment and development for Africa. We have expressed the desire for *"shared prosperity and well-being, for unity and integration, for a continent ... where the full potential of women and youth are realized, and with freedom from fear, disease and want"*.

Now, as others taking the floor earlier, indicated, two days ago, we adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). That was brilliant. However, allow me to isolate SDG 4 that speaks of

Education. As a Champion of Higher Education in Africa, I wish to reiterate in no uncertain terms that all the brilliant resolutions and decisions coming out of this great forum, and many similar ones across the world, fall flat on their face, if countries ignore to educate its people, especially its youth, more so the girl child. In this vein, I am pleased to note that Sustainable Development Goal No. 4 is about *'Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning'*. However, it does not fully capture the centrality of higher education to achieving the wider Sustainable Development Goals targets. Allow me to express gratitude to those partners that continue to stand with us, to promote higher education in Africa. With improved and increased access to higher education, the world will strike a massive blow at poverty.

**Mr. President,**

In fulfilling its national and international responsibility, my Government recognizes the cross-cutting role of respect and protection of people's human rights and rule of law. My Government will continue to promote human rights, by among others, enhancing awareness of human rights, promoting equitable access to opportunities and strengthening legal protection.

Full enjoyment of people's human rights could not be achieved in a society full of fraud, corruption and theft of public resources. These vices must be dealt with in order to protect people's human rights and ensure delivery of expected service from their government. My

government has, therefore, always been committed to fighting against corruption, fraud and theft. It is against this backdrop that we are pursuing and prosecuting suspects in the theft of public funds.

**God bless the UN family!**

