

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED DURING THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (APMB)**

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving my delegation the floor.

Malawi aligns itself to the statement delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the African Member States

My delegation wishes to commend you for the successfully steering the work of the convention towards the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of States Parties

We also commend the Implementation Support Unit for the good work done in managing the Convention.

**Mr. President.**

My country has never used land mines, therefore does not have contaminated areas. As a country, we do intend to maintain the status quo and we have in place strategies and policies that ensures that is the case.

Despite not having mines, this convention is of great importance to my country, due to its humanitarian impact and the desire to see an end to the devastating effects of mines on humanity. On another note, this convention is of great importance because Malawi, contributes to peace keeping missions in Africa and across the globe. Our personnel: military, police and civilian are deployed in several countries of conflicts where they encounter mine contaminated areas. It is for this reason we actively engage in discussions that ensure safe space for them as they contribute to peace keeping mission.

My delegation is aware that assistance under this convention is targeted at countries with contaminated land as well as victims of land mines. However, as I have mentioned above, being a troop contributing country for peacekeeping missions, my delegation could be grateful if assistance, particularly, in terms of capacity building is provided to our peacekeeping personnels as they prepare for deployment to ensure their safety.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, my country will continue to call on non-members to join the convention and also those with obligations to clear contaminated areas to do so according to set deadlines. This will ensure safe space not only for peace keeping missions but innocent civilians.

**Thank you Mr. President.**