

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH ON UPR**



**16<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights  
Council**

**Acceptance Speech on the Universal Periodic Review  
Process**

**By**

**The Chairperson of Malawi Human Rights Commission**

Thank you Your Excellency, Mr. President

Your Excellency and Members of the Human Rights Council I stand here today on behalf of the Human Rights Commission of Malawi which holds an A Accreditation Status as a National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles. The Human Rights Commission appreciates the opportunity provided for the State, National Institutions, NGOs and other independent organisation to actively contribute to the UPR.

The Human Rights Commission welcomes the adoption by the Malawi Government of the vast majority of the draft UPR recommendations. Much as we understand that there were a number of recommendation that were postponed, Malawi has made some efforts to examine and respond to these recommendation whose response will be adopted in this session.

Mr. President, I am happy to report that the Human Rights Commission of Malawi, in its capacity as independent national human rights institution, is committed to play a pivotal role in ensuring that the UPR recommendations be translated into real action on the ground.

The Human Rights Commission of Malawi will play a consultative and coordinating role with Government and NGOs including Trade Unions to ensure that the recommendations resulting from the UPR, including

those rejected, will be discussed by all stakeholders and reach a common position.

The Human Rights Commission has included all the recommendations for the UPR, that is, both those that were adopted and rejected by government in our work plans for purposes of taking that information to the public. The approach will be to link international instruments and treaties with the recommendations raised for the public to understand and generate debate on those issues.

The Commission will also foster close links with the United Nations human rights treaty bodies to ensure that they are provided with information on any progress Malawi is undertaking.

Furthermore, the Human Rights Commission has suggested an implementation strategy, which will soon be discussed with Government and civil society to see through this process.

The Human Rights Commission suggests that Government should come up with a three-year implementation plan of the recommendations. The plan should establish a calendar for follow-up with actions to be undertaken and measurable goals to be achieved within a specific timeframe. Each recommendation should be given a timeline for its implementation. The targets should allow for evaluation that must be undertaken on a yearly basis.

Government should set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee to monitor the implementation of the UPR recommendations. As there has been an Inter-ministerial Committee on Democracy Consolidation where issues of human rights and good governance were discussed, a decision could be made on whether to set up a new committee or revive the already existing committee to include responsibilities of monitoring the implementation of UPR recommendations.

Since the implementation of UPR recommendations shall be a responsibility of the State, it follows that all Government Ministries shall be implementing agencies of some particular recommendations that fall within their jurisdiction. Monitoring shall be done by a line Ministry who in turn reports to the Inter-ministerial Committee on progress of implementation. This strategy will clearly define the roles of the Human Rights Commission, Civil Society Organizations and other independent organisations in terms of monitoring and advocacy.

Your Excellency I hope that by the time Malawi undergoes the second round of the review, she would have made a number of improvements in areas where the international community raised concerns during the review process.

Thank you Your Excellency.