



**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE
SOLICITOR GENERAL
AND
SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE,
DR. JANET L. BANDA**

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

24TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

I am greatly honoured to lead the Malawi delegation to this Session. You will recall that during the review of Malawi's Second Cycle report in May, 2015, Malawi received one hundred and ninety nine (199) recommendations. Out of the 199 recommendations, Malawi supported one hundred and forty five (145) recommendations. Thirteen (13) of which we considered already implemented at the time of the review. We pended thirteen (13) recommendations to this session and we have since accepted nine (9) and rejected four (4) of these pended thirteen recommendations. In total therefore Malawi has accepted a total of one hundred and fifty four (154) recommendations out of the 199 recommendations.

On deciding which recommendations to support, the Government and the people of Malawi were guided by our country's constitutional values and ideals, national priorities as reflected in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II (MGDS II) and various sectoral policies. The supported recommendations therefore speak to aspirations of the people of Malawi. We are mindful that this review and interactive dialogue will continue with the submission of our midterm report in 2017, as well as our next cycle report in 2019.

Malawi is keen to ensure that the supported recommendations are implemented. Since the review in May, Malawi has already taken steps towards implementation of the recommendations.

Firstly, the National Task Force on UPR was constituted in July to start the process of dissemination of the recommendations.

Secondly we are using the recommendations as key benchmarks for the development of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2016-2020, a process being led by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Human Rights Commission.

Thirdly, we have planned to convene a National Stakeholders meeting in October, 2015 to discuss the way forward and determine how to prioritize the implementation process. The plan is to link implementation of the recommendations to the National Human Rights Action Plan.

We would like to thank members of the Troika and all member states that took part in the dialogue in May, 2015. We also appreciate the role played by all key stakeholders in Malawi, such as Government Ministries, Departments, constitutional bodies and civil society.

On behalf of the Government of Malawi, we affirm our strongest commitment to the cause of human rights at home and abroad.

Thank you