

MALAWI PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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UNITED NATIONS**

ON AGENDA ITEM: 82 "THE RULE OF LAW"

**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UNITED
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I would like to start by congratulating you Mr. Chairman and your colleagues for being elected into the Bureau of the 6th Committee. The Delegation of Malawi would also like to align itself with statements delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and South Africa on behalf of the Africa Group.

The Government and people of Malawi cherish the rule of law partly due to the recent history of the country. After experiencing over 30 years of dictatorship under a one party state where the rule of law was never adhered to and many citizens were victims, Malawians achieved multi-party democracy in 1994 where the overall goal was to achieve and re-establish the rule of law.

In May 2014 Malawi held its fifth transparent and internationally recognized elections to choose its democratic leaders. The elections were held under credible and peaceful conditions in accordance with the constitutional requirements that elections be conducted in the fifth month of every fifth year.

The Malawi Constitution has a bill of rights and the Government has made sure that every Malawian enjoys his or her human rights. Where these have been abused or not been observed citizens have access to institutions such as the Ombudsman, the Malawi Human Rights Commission and courts of law where

they can seek redress. The courts of law are independent of the Executive and Legislature and operate as such. They are accessible to all citizens and the Government has put in place a Legal Aid department to assist those who are poor and marginalized to be able to access justice without having to pay a lot of money or anything at all.

At the international level Malawi stringently upholds and adheres to the Charter of the United Nations and believes that it is only through such an approach that international relations can be conducted in a fair and peaceful manner. In this regard Malawi is also a signatory to the Rome Statute and is also a member of International Court of Justice and strongly believes that where misunderstandings have arisen between two or more countries these institutions should be used to help resolve such issues wherever possible. In the same Malawi is also an active member of SADC and the African Union with the aim, amongst others, of promoting international understanding, cooperation and the rule of law amongst countries.

In conclusion then, it is important that the rule of law is observed and adhered to not just at the domestic level but also in the international arena in order for peace to thrive and social and economic development to take place.

I thank your, Mr. Chairman.

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