



STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR PERKS LIGOYA

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE/AMBASSADOR OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE DEBATE OF AGENDA ITEM 78:
CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF UNITED NATIONS
OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS ON MISSION**

**THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 74TH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, USA

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Chairperson,

Since this is the first time that I am taking the floor, allow me to congratulate other members of the Bureau on your deserved election to steer the proceeding of the Sixth Committee. I wish to assure you of my delegation's support and cooperation.

Malawi aligns itself with the statements made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the representative of Zambia on behalf of the African Group.

Chairperson,

Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission is a clear manifestation of the international community's resolve to fight impunity. In that connection, I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report A/74/142 which outlines the status of referrals on allegations that crimes may have been committed. This is unfortunately not encouraging.

Chairperson,

The growing number of UN officials and experts on mission calls for vigilance on all member States to prevent abuse of those that look up to the UN for provision of services. It is Member States responsibility to see to it that its nationals serving on the UN mission are held accountable for any crimes they may have committed.

Chairperson,

Malawi is a peace keeping troop contributing country and, in its commitment to prevent and combat crimes by the experts while on mission, steps have been taken in that regard. The government conducts pre-deployment training which includes briefing troops on respect international law and the law of the state of their post. This is crucial for them to prevent any criminal conduct. In addition, troops conclude declarations that bind them to act in accordance with all relevant guidelines and the law in their work.

Chairperson,

It is important to note however, that despite any precautions, crimes may still be committed by UN officials and experts on mission. In that regard, Malawi's Penal Code section 217A and Geneva Conventions Act establish cross-border jurisdiction over serious crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Thus the law provides for jurisdiction through the traditional links of nationality for such crimes even if they are wholly committed abroad.

Chairperson,

The Secretary-General's report is evident that most referrals remain unresolved. In that regard, my delegation calls for enhanced international cooperation so that the fight against impunity become a reality. Malawi remains committed to hold its national that are serving as UN officials and experts on mission accountable for crimes that they may have committed while so serving.

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to continued keen deliberations of this topic so the UN's integrity may be safeguarded and the public trust in the organisation protected.

I thank you for your attention.