



Second Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention

Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World

(High Level Segment)

Statement by the Republic of Malawi

Delivered by Major Dr. Dan Kuwali, Dy Director of Legal Services, Head of Delegation

4 December 2009

Madam President,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Malawi, I am honoured to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Colombia for hosting this important Summit.

As you are all aware, distinguished delegates, Malawi has never produced, nor used, not even stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Nonetheless, Malawi recognizes the danger posed by land mines and their impact on the socioeconomic development of vulnerable people- women, girls, boys and men, around the world. It is clear that landmines are not in comport with the prevailing paradigm of human security. Humanity is indivisible. The threat to humanity elsewhere is a threat to humanity everywhere. For this reason, Malawi supports and participates in the work of the Ottawa Convention. Land mines run against the grain of the object and purpose of the UN Charter “to save succeeding generations from the scourges of war.” There can be no reasonable justification for their impact on innocent civilians. In terms of international humanitarian law, the humanitarian concerns outweigh the military necessity of landmines by far.

Since the 1st Review Conference adopted the Nairobi Action Plan of 2004, Malawi has willingly reported and declared completion pursuant to Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention. The suspected land is now free for productive use. We thank the Implementation Support Unit, UNDP, the Norwegian Church Aid and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining for assisting Malawi to achieve the efficient and expedient implementation of Article 5. We also congratulate States that have recently declared completion pursuant to Article 5, Albania, Rwanda, Tunisia and Zambia.

Madame President,

Following the prospective entry into force of the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions, there is need for a comprehensive approach to disarmament, encompassing mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war, in order to synergize efforts and resource mobilization to eradicate these inhumane and indiscriminate weapons in the 21st century. As the UN Secretary General has aptly stated “landmines aimed at human beings are on the road to extinction.” Hence Malawi adds a voice to the chorus of universalisation of the Ottawa Treaty and stigmatization of anti-personnel landmines. We fully support the continuation of the spirit of good faith, the climate of cooperation and a culture of prevention in the implementation of the Ottawa Convention; between and among States, UN agencies and NGOs. In this vein, we commend the innovation of the “Deeds of Commitment” by the Geneva Call in encouraging non-state armed groups to ban these inherently indiscriminate weapons.

In conclusion, Madame President, Malawi subscribes to the Cartagena Declaration and supports the implementation of the Cartagena Plan of Action 2010 to 2014 to generate new momentum to achieve the universal adherence of the Ottawa Convention and its norms to attain the goal of “ending the suffering caused by landmines” and achieve “a mine-free world”. Such a commitment is not only a one of the keys to achieve the Millennium Development Goals but also a sure way to save future generations.

Thank you. Muchas gracias.