

**TALKING POINTS FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AT THE FOURTH MEETING FOR STATES PARTIES
FOR THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Mr. President

Let me once again add Malawi's voice to the discussion on the Lusaka Progress Report submitted by Norway and the draft decisions

- Let me start by commending Ambassador Steffen Kongstad, President of the Third Meeting on States Parties for the Comprehensive Lusaka Progress report. The report ably catalogues the progress so far made in the implementation of the Convention in clear cut statistics, while it points out the remaining challenges and raises questions that would help focus our next steps in the implementation so as to rid the world of the scourge of cluster munitions.
- Clearly, substantive progress has been made in the implementation of the Convention. However, we still have a lot of ground to cover in order to universalize the Convention. We note that the regional gatherings that we have so far undertaken have resulted in positive exchange of experiences and best practices between affected states. One such best practice is when member states voluntarily declare possession of cluster munitions and provide information on number of stocks. This can be a motivating factor for those skeptical to follow suit. Regional forums have also provided opportunities for the Convention Community to work together and build consensus on how best to implement the Convention. It is through these gatherings that more states parties have been mobilized to garner political support for the implementation of the CCM, especially this time around when we had the High Level Segment where political leadership was in the fore. States Parties that have never used nor stock piled cluster munitions, but have so much conviction in the full implementation of the Convention has also been actively involved. As such, Malawi would like to move that

regional gatherings should be encouraged as a strategy for achieving a world free of cluster munitions.

- On its part Malawi commits to use its position as the current SADC Chair to encourage those members that are signatories to ratify and those who have not signed to accede to the Convention.
- As the work relating to the destruction of stockpiles, clearance in Cluster Mmunition contaminated countries and victim assistance cannot be undertaken without adequate financial resources, we would like to stress the need for international cooperation. It is therefore important for affected countries to make their needs known as soon as possible and the international community should increase the support it extends to support implementation measures
- On the question of victim assistance, we would like to agree with many speakers who have advocated for linkage with activities promoting the right of victims under other relevant instruments of international law such as the Convention for the rights of Persons with Disabilities. We need not overemphasize the need to situate it within the broad development cooperation programme.
- With regard to the challenge of coming up with a predictable funding model for the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) that ensures universal ownership and accountability towards all states parties, we thank the UNDP Bureau for crisis Prevention and Recovery for stepping in as an interim ISU. However, the need for a proper ISU to provide support to states parties is critical and therefore must be put in place at the proposed time or even sooner.

I thank you Mr. President