



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT BY

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL AND SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

ON

**THE OCCASION OF THE 14TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

CHAIRPERSON,

The interconnectedness of our world today makes it easy for those that commit their lives to engaging in criminal activity to penetrate the systems created for good for their evil intentions. Now more than ever, we see acts of terror in one part of the world affecting the lives and livelihoods of people in another part of the world.

Crime is a global issue. It is therefore incumbent upon us to join hands in the fight against crime. We are well aware today that crime has the ability to cripple the economies, especially in developing countries. Crime has the potential to rob a society of its most promising citizens, and stifle the growth of economies, affecting not only the present generation, but also the future generations. There is need to improve on our collaboration in criminal matters through mechanisms such as mutual legal assistance amongst and between states.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

CHAIRPERSON,

Human trafficking remains a vice that requires states to join hands in the fight against it. Malawi enacted the Trafficking in Persons Act in 2015 to, among other things, provide for the prevention and elimination of trafficking in persons. Through the work of the National Coordination Committee against Trafficking in Persons established under the Act, it is clear that the fight against Trafficking in Persons requires great resources and coordination of states. The Act also specially penalizes trafficking in children, which is an aggravated form of trafficking. Malawi is keen to continue to work together with all United Nations Members States in an effort to curb this evil.

ATTACKS AGAINST PERSONS WITH ALBINISM

CHAIRPERSON,

Over the past four years, Malawi registered cases of attacks against persons with albinism in the form of killings and exhumation of dead bodies to remove body parts. In an effort to combat such heinous acts, Malawi enacted the Penal Code (Amendment) Act of 2016 which criminalises all acts of violence against persons with albinism, including killings, exhumation of body parts and conspiracy to kill, or cause harm to a person with albinism. The Penal Code amendment has enabled the country to successfully prosecute offences related to the killings of persons with albinism with enhanced sentences.

TERRORISM

CHAIRPERSON,

Malawi is at an advanced stage in tabling the Draft Penal Code (Amendment) Bill before its National Assembly to penalize terrorism. The country is cognizant of the threat to world peace and security that terrorism brings. Furthermore, the Financial Crimes Act of 2017 criminalizes terrorist financing and provides for a wide and internationally recognized definition of a “terrorist act”.

We must put our efforts together to tackle the threats of terrorism.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND AGENDA 2030

CHAIRPERSON,

Malawi has continued to intensify in its resolve to improve on access to justice for all persons, which is in keeping with the Bill of Rights under the Constitution and in keeping with the global goal on peaceful and inclusive societies. To this end, Malawi has improved on clearing the backlog of criminal cases through regular homicide assizes, camp courts and has worked on decongesting prisons through rigorous review of cases by the High Court for sentences meted out in lower courts.

Our aspirations as expressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be attained without deliberate efforts to improve access to justice through a criminal justice system that works for all people.

COMBATING CRIME THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

In this respect, Malawi embraces the idea that no one country can successfully fight crime alone. Through the Kyoto Declaration, we renew our commitment and resolve to fight crime together, irrespective of the tough and unprecedented circumstances that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented us. Our criminal justice systems have been affected by delays in the conclusion of court cases due to adjournments, and our prison services greatly strained.

However, we remain steadfast in our commitment to work together with all UN Member States in rising above the tide of the pandemic and making our criminal justice systems work. Malawi looks forward to the building of stronger networks amongst and between Member States.

Malawi wishes to convey its appreciation to Japan for hosting the 14th UN Crime Congress, and I sincerely thank the Chairperson for this opportunity to address the Assembly.