

**INTERVENTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI
DURING THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING ON
MINE CLEARANCE, MINE RISK EDUCATION AND
MINE ACTION TECHNOLOGIES**

Co-Chairpersons

Thank you very much for allowing the Malawi delegation to participate at this very important meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies. The Government of Malawi continues to take the necessary steps in order to ensure that the country is free of Mines and Unexploded Ordinances (UXOs) by the deadline of 2009.

Malawi does not produce, possess or use landmines. However, we have the landmine problem along our border with Mozambique, a distance of approximately 1000 km and suspected UXOs in the 33 defunct Malawi Young Pioneer (MYP) bases. Nevertheless, our country has got no Information Management System, therefore, the extent of the problem or the real number of victims is not clearly compiled.

It is against this background that the Malawi government, through its National Landmine Committee decided to conduct a

General Survey in order to establish the magnitude of the problem. The Government of Malawi has included Mine Action in its 2004 to 2005 national budget. However, due to the limited resources of our country, we request for assistance from donors and the entire international community so that we should effectively carry out our General Survey before the First Review Conference to be held in Nairobi. To this effect, we are finalising project proposals, which will be submitted to various donors and organisations by July , 2004. In this respect, we wish to appeal to those who will receive our proposals to give favourable consideration to the request.

On Mine Risk Education, the Government of Malawi will embark on civic education in order to enlighten the general public of the Mine and UXO problem throughout the country with emphasis in the suspected areas. The government will also work hand in hand with the civil society and the media in this endeavour. However, due to lack of capacity building, we need assistance in training our personnel in order for them to carry out their duties effectively.

With these remarks, I wish to thank you all for your attention.

GENEVA, 22ND JUNE, 2004