



General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 September 2023

Original: English

Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 114 (c)

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other
elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

Note verbale dated 14 September 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Malawi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Republic of Malawi to the Human Rights Council for the term 2024–2026, at the elections to be held in New York in 2023.

The Permanent Mission has the further honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Government of the Republic of Malawi regarding its candidature for re-election to the Human Rights Council for the term 2024–2026 (see annex), by which the Government reaffirms its principles, in terms of upholding the highest standards in the promotion and the protection of human rights and full cooperation with the Council and its members, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#).

The Permanent Mission should be grateful if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114 (c).



Annex to the note verbale dated 14 September 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Malawi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Voluntary pledges and commitments for the candidature of Malawi to the Human Rights Council, 2024–2026

1. Malawi is seeking re-election to the membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2024–2026. Its current membership expires at the end of 2023. Malawi hereby makes these voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#).

2. Malawi firmly believes in the universality and indivisibility of the principles of human rights and has over the years shown its unwavering commitment to this cause. Malawi endeavours to continue its resolve in the promotion of the universal values of human rights through strong and credible institutions and international cooperation.

3. Malawi has made tremendous progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. This status is anchored in our Constitution, which has a robust bill of rights founded on principles of accountability, transparency, rule of law and respect for human rights. The Constitution is supported by an array of progressive legislation, policy and institutional frameworks. Malawi's journey as a thriving democracy is informed by our history of the struggle against colonialism and dictatorship. Our future is shaped by our collective wisdom and national vision of a socially and economically secure country riding on the wings of our national development plan, Malawi 2063.

4. Malawi is a party to the following international human rights instruments:

- (a) Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- (b) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- (c) International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
- (d) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- (e) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- (f) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- (g) International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
- (h) Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- (i) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
- (ii) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography;
- (i) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

5. Below are Malawi's contributions, voluntary pledges and commitments in the field of human rights pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#):

(a) At the domestic level, the Government of Malawi makes the following pledges and commitments:

- (i) To progressively implement the recommendations and concluding observations from the United Nations and African Union treaty bodies, as well as the universal periodic review mechanism, in line with our national priorities;
- (ii) To continue to equip human rights institutions with the necessary human and financial resources to ensure that they carry out their work effectively without fear or interference;
- (iii) To continue to improve parliament's oversight, at the national and local levels, over human rights policies and their implementation;
- (iv) To improve access to legal aid services across the country;
- (v) To improve the mandate of the office of the Ombudsman to ensure that the office assists the public service in delivering its services effectively;
- (vi) To preserve and protect the enjoyment of freedoms of the media, access to information, assembly, expression or opinion, religion or belief, consistent with our national and international obligations;
- (vii) To work closely with civil society organizations and ensure the protection of civic space;
- (viii) To continue to provide parliamentarians, law enforcement officials, judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, civil servants and the media with capacity-building, training programmes and education related to human rights;
- (ix) To continue to revise laws and policies to ensure consistency with national aspirations and international human rights obligations;
- (x) To take practical steps to create jobs progressively and ensure that the rights of workers, such as the right to a secure working environment, are fully protected;
- (xi) To review, where necessary, the legal and policy frameworks for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and eliminate sexual and gender-based violence;
- (xii) To take steps to ensure the 60:40 ratio of men to women in public appointments and public service;
- (xiii) To develop policies and programmes in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and Africa's Agenda for Children 2040;
- (xiv) To continue to work towards the development of policies and programmes for countering hate speech;
- (xv) To complete and launch the national human rights action plan;
- (xvi) To complete and launch the universal periodic review implementation plan;
- (xvii) To enhance measures to improve the management of public finances;
- (xviii) To continue to work towards improving access to health;
- (xix) To enhance the implementation of measures to address climate change;
- (xx) To implement improved disaster risk management and response plans;

(xxi) To continue to take concrete measures to ensure the full protection of vulnerable groups, such as persons with albinism and the elderly;

(b) At the international level, the Government of Malawi makes the following pledges and commitments:

(i) To continue to participate in key human rights institutions, such as the Human Rights Council and all United Nations and African Union treaty bodies;

(ii) To enhance cooperation with the United Nations special procedures mechanism through its standing invitation;

(iii) To submit outstanding State party reports;

(iv) To continue to improve Malawi's engagement with United Nations treaty bodies, particularly in follow-up to the implementation of concluding observations and recommendations;

(v) To actively contribute to various international initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights;

(vi) To engage in open and constructive engagement in the universal periodic review procedure;

(vii) To submit reports under the universal periodic review procedure on a timely basis;

(viii) To advocate for the practical equality of nations in international affairs;

(ix) To advocate for the strengthening of international institutions as a means of sustaining global peace;

(x) To actively participate in global and regional agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2040 and Agenda 2063;

(xi) To continue to support the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
