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AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

UNITED NATIONS
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

17 June 2026

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Malawi by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 50th session in November 2025. As the final outcome report on the review of Malawi was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 61st session, I have taken note of the efforts of Malawi to implement specific recommendations since the previous review.

A matrix of thematically clustered recommendations, starting with those supported by Malawi, is available at OHCHR's website (https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/mw-index) and should be considered as part of this letter. The matrix indicates the recommending State and links each recommendation to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In annex, I have also attached my Office's observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the UPR. In line with previous practice, I will be sending similar observations to all Member States once their fourth cycle UPR outcome is adopted by the Human Rights Council, with a view to follow-up action in close cooperation with national entities and other stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the support available through the Voluntary Fund for UPR Implementation, which may be activated at the request and with the consent of a concerned State, along with tools such as the "UPR practical guidance" and the "UN good practices" repository on how the UPR process supports sustainable development, available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-main, with a view to facilitating efforts to implement UPR recommendations in line with the SDGs.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Volker Türk

His Excellency
Mr. George Chapatula Chaponda, M.P.
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi

Observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review

The measures introduced by Malawi to eradicate child marriage are welcome, including the adoption of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriages 2024-2030 and the launching of a National Birth Registration Campaign targeting unregistered children. Malawi is encouraged to build on these initiatives by implementing relevant supported recommendations.

Positive note is also taken of the reduction in attacks on persons with albinism as a result of the implementation of the National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism. Malawi is encouraged to continue with initiatives to protect persons with albinism from violence and discrimination, including by addressing the root causes of such violations.

With regard to concerns raised about the admissibility and use of confessions obtained through torture in court proceedings, Malawi is strongly urged to prohibit torture, in line with supported recommendations. This includes codifying torture as a specific offence in the Penal Code in accordance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as prohibiting the admissibility of coerced confessions.

Positive note is taken of Malawi's support for recommendations aimed at combating violence and harmful practices against women and girls, including female genital mutilation. Malawi is encouraged to take steps towards the prohibition of marital rape, and to implement all recommendations relating to all forms of violence against women and girls.

The implementation of the Malawi National Social Protection Strategy (2023–2030) and related social protection programmes is commendable. Positive note is also taken of Malawi's support for recommendations aimed at eradicating poverty, ensuring food security, and improving WASH infrastructure in rural communities. Implementation of these recommendations is urged, including through the effective use of existing social protection programmes.

In its statement to the Human Rights Council, Malawi mentioned that a comprehensive implementation plan, anchored in the Malawi Agenda 2063, would be developed to implement supported recommendations from the UPR. Malawi is encouraged to develop this plan in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the parliament, the judiciary, the Human Rights Commission, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. The matrix of thematically clustered recommendations may be of use in the development of such an implementation plan. Malawi is encouraged to explicitly link each recommendation to corresponding recommendations from other international and regional human rights mechanisms and to the relevant SDGs and their targets. This would, in turn, facilitate

the creation of synergies between UPR implementation and SDG-related actions and reporting within the context of the Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Malawi is encouraged to ensure that the National Inter-Ministerial Committee on State Party Reporting functions in a manner that ensures a coordinated and effective approach to reporting to international human rights mechanisms, and to implementing the recommendations, in line with the guidance provided by OHCHR following regional consultations and the High Commissioner's report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/50/64).

Further, an important measure that could positively contribute to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term UPR reporting. All Member States are encouraged to submit a voluntary mid-term UPR report about two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, Malawi may wish to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2028, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR
June 2026