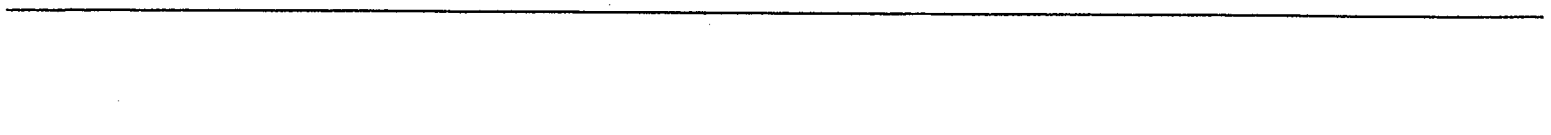
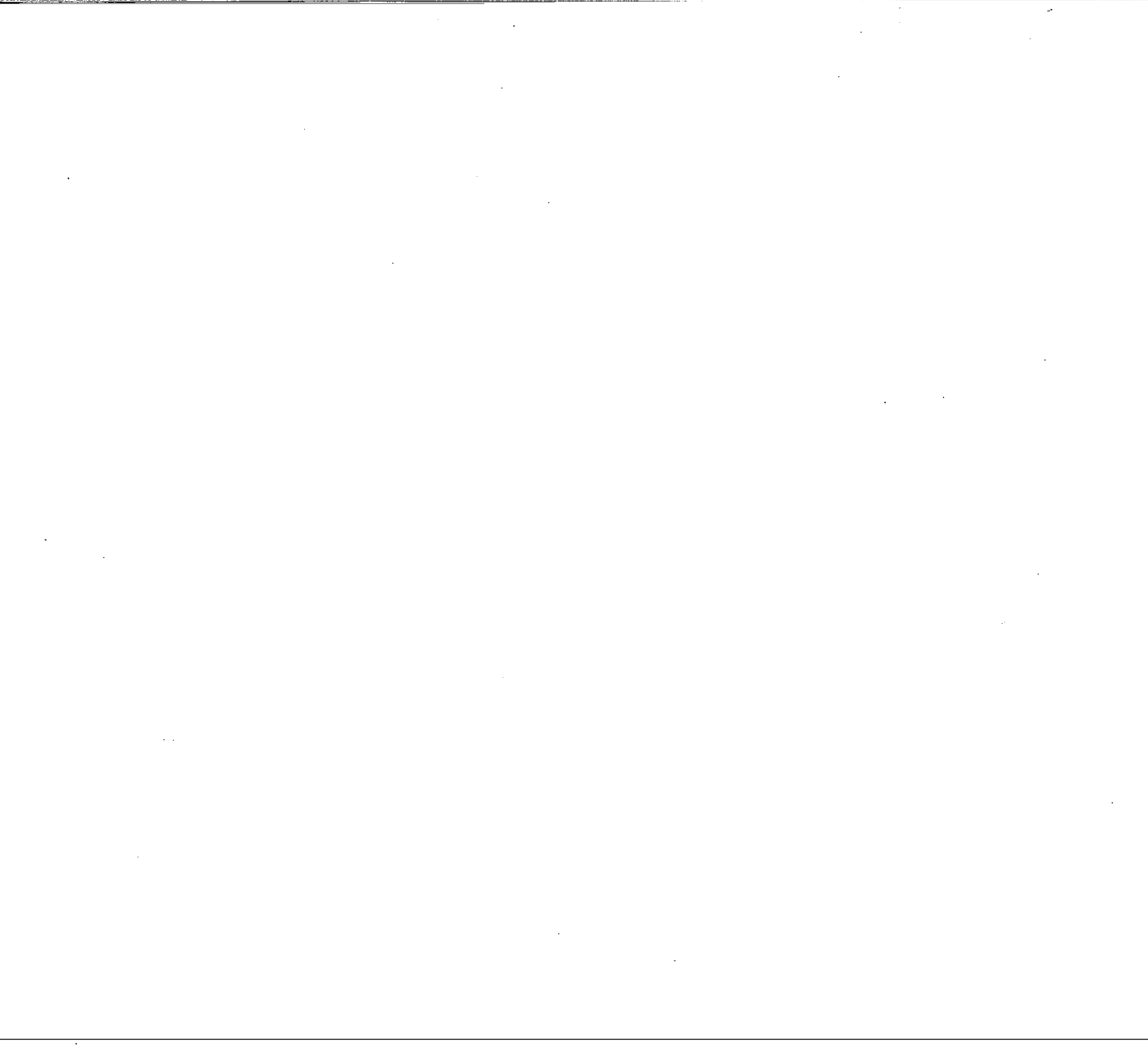




MALAWI



STATEMENT
BY
MS JANE ASANI-NDELEMANI, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON AGENDA ITEM 2(B) DURING THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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GENEVA

4TH JULY 2007

(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Mr. President,

Malawi associates itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. As a Least Developed and Land-locked country, Malawi identifies with the theme of this groundbreaking session of ECOSOC because the greater percentage of its population is rural based and poverty is widespread.

Mr. President,

Malawi is committed to the eradication of poverty and human development. Through the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, the government of Malawi has determined priorities that would foster socio-economic growth for its people. These are agriculture and food security, irrigation and water development, transport and communications infrastructure, energy, integrated rural development, human development and management of HIV/AIDS.

Malawi has been hard at work to revive and rebuild the agriculture sector with a view to promoting sustainable national food security. This year, Malawi has produced more than the national grain requirement largely due to the implementation of a farm input and fertilizer subsidy programme by government which has empowered rural producers to produce more food. The programme has resulted in significant increase in maize production from

grains such as rice, beans, potatoes, cassava, groundnuts and pulses has also been increased as a way of dietary diversification.

Malawi is convinced that improvement of transport and communications infrastructure is critical for growth and development. The government therefore continues to develop its road networks with the aim of improving not only movement of goods and services from rural areas to the urban but also to enhance domestic and international trade. Furthermore, Malawi is determined to open up access to the Indian Ocean through the

implementation by government with the aim of eradicating poverty among rural communities through the promotion of Rural Growth Centres.

One area that has witnessed strong partnership is the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS. With the support of international donors, Malawi has registered increased levels of

water and sanitation, youth development and social groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities as well as orphans and vulnerable children.

Mr. President,

As this August assembly may be aware, Malawi's external debt was cancelled under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). The external debt that was at US\$ 5 billion now stands at zero.

The objective now is to ensure that there is continued implementation of

macroeconomic stability it has achieved

Malawi applauds the efforts of the G8 in promoting the attainment of the MDGs in Africa. The June 2007 Summit held in Heiligendamm, Germany is further testimony of the group's intention to promote sustainable growth in Africa. Malawi therefore welcomes the group's Summit Declaration which outlines further measures to promote sustainable growth in Africa.

The government of Malawi sincerely thanks its development partners including the

remains to be done in order to fully attain the internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs. In this respect we look forward to the follow up to the Financing for

I thank you.