WRITTEN VERSION OF PRESIDENT DR LAZARUS McCARTHY CHAKWERA'S
(PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI) PRE-RECORDED STATEMENT FOR
THE HLM ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

Your Excellency Mr Abullah Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the General Assembly,
Your Excellency Mr Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General
Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

A world free from nuclear weapons feels less like a dream and, more like a pipe dream. Just
eleven days ago, four of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council were
engaged in a public war of words over nuclear submarines.

For a peaceful nation like Malawi, a nation with no history of armed conflict and a track
record of taking in thousands of displaced persons fleeing conflict elsewhere, the virtues of
warmongering have never occurred to us, and heaven forbid that this should ever change.

I believe I speak for many Africans when I say that we find the continued proliferation and
stockpiling of nuclear weapons amongst nations we consider civilised and call friends,
saddening and frightening. As such it is not African nations like Malawi that need to stand
here and commit to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is not African nations like
Malawi that need to parade its compliance with the protocols of the International Atomic
Energy Agency, the Non- Proliferation Treaty and the Perindaba Treaty. It is not African
nations like Malawi, with its newly established Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority that threatens the dream of a Nuclear-free world. As far as we are concerned, there are two great threats to the dream of a Nuclear-free world. The first is the continued proud stockpiling of nuclear weapons by permanent members of the UN Security Council. And the second is the nuclear ambitions of those nations that wish to follow in their footsteps. Since we have no such ambitions, we call for the inclusion of a permanent seat for Africa on the UN Security Council.

This is an idea whose time has come.

Thank you for your attention.