



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

MALAWI STATEMENT MADE DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE, THIRD SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT 16 APRIL 2024

Chairperson,

Malawi aligns with the statement of The African Group, welcomes this Third Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and congratulates you, the Vice Chairperson and Rapporteur on your appointment.

As the First International Decade for People of African Descent comes to an end this year, we have an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learnt and the progress made even as we look towards the Second International Decade.

We note that from the two sessions, the Permanent Forum has identified systemic racism, reparatory justice, and sustainable development as core themes to be explored as goals for the next International Decade. Malawi looks forward to engage on these themes as we also use this occasion to deepen contributions towards the Draft United Nations Declaration on the Promotion, Protection and full Respect of the Human Rights of People of African Descent.

While it is clear that there has been progress in international awareness of the human rights issues of People of African Descent, they continue to face deep inequalities and discrimination in every layer of their lives. These inequalities have in time been kept alive through generations of slavery, colonialism and now, a biased and unequal international architecture engineered to maintain the status quo.

We echo the affirmation that the Permanent Forum on people of African descent should be firmly based on the reaffirmation of the Durban Declaration on People of African Descent.

I thank you.