

MINISTERIAL BRIEF TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE UNIFORMED CAPABILITY

1. Greetings from the President, His Excellency Professor Arthur Peter MUTHARIKA and the people of Malawi to you, the Secretary General and the entire Secretariat of the United Nations.
2. On the onset, I would like to thank you for inviting Malawi to this important gathering where we discuss the challenges facing the World today and how the uniformed personnel are assisting in creating a conducive environment for other agencies to play the developmental role. In this way, the targeted populace could positively advance economically as well as socially while enjoying the basic human rights.
3. Malawi as a Troop Contributing Country, understands the evolving nature of peacekeeping environment. This being the case, Malawi is intensively engaged in sensitizing its troops before they deploy into any mission area despite previous deployment to the same mission. Apart from the human capacity, Malawi is also aware of the challenging environment of operation and that is why the selection of proper equipment and trained human resource that is deployed is crucial. This involves selection of appropriate armament, communication equipment just to mention a few. Malawi takes keen interest in the requirements of peacekeeping equipment suggested by the United Nations Secretariat.
4. Malawi is also one of the few countries deployed in the mission area at the moment as such Malawi focuses in building the capacity for its troops. The mission Malawi is deployed in at the moment, requires the training to be tailor made. The training starts five months before the actual deployment, focusing on individual training, culminating into collective training. The environment of training is deliberately chosen to mirror that of the mission area.

The training is also geared towards preparing command and staff officers on the necessary routine work of the United Nations system. I can comfortably say, Malawi troops are well prepared by the time they deploy in the mission area and thanks to our military partners, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. In addition, Malawi also recognizes the importance of gender balance in the mission area that is why it emphasizes on meeting the target of fifteen percent female deployment in any peacekeeping mission.

5. Malawi acknowledges and understands that there are existing gaps in most of the mission conducted by the United Nations. It is Malawi's appeal to the countries that have not pledged any troops to the United Nations to do so. Malawi has pledged an Infantry Battalion in Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System. Contributing troops to the United Nations is contributing to humanity.

6. On Action for Peacekeeping (A4P), Malawi has already endorsed a Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations. Malawi understands that the Declaration contains seven broad commitment areas and that out of the seven, the goal of political mobilization has been achieved. The six commitments; protection, performance, safety and security of peacekeepers, peacebuilding, partnership and conduct are still outstanding. Malawi, like many other member states, would like similar endorsement of the remaining six commitments.

6. Malawi, like the umbrella body of the United Nations, is committed to the World peace and may God bless our nations and I thank you for your listening.