Statement by

The Military Adviser of the
Mission of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations

At

The General Debate of the First Committee of the 74th
Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, October 2019
Mr. Chairman

On the illicit proliferation and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons Malawi signed the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit use of small arms and light weapons in 2001 when the Programme came into force. To this end Malawi has since 2006 submitted annual reports to United Nations Office on Drug and Alcohol (UNODA) on progress that is being made in the implementation of the programme. Additionally, Malawi has since 2006 participated in the biennial conference to report on progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action.

Malawi also signed the SADC Protocol on Firearms, Ammunitions and related Materials in 2002. The Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organization (SARPCCO) has been mandated with promoting and coordinating the implementation of the SADC Protocol.

Malawi is not highly affected by illicit proliferation and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons compared to our neighboring countries. However, our people still suffer significantly from the illicit use of small arms and light weapons both within their homes and business premises. This is evidenced by an apparent increase in recovery of illegal firearms by the Malawi Police Service.

Mr. Chairman

Preventing an arms race in outer space is in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and is an essential condition for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. In this context, the General Assembly has recognized the need for increased transparency and confirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means of reinforcing the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space.
Malawi has clear interest in working with international partners to promote the responsible and peaceful use of the outer space. This is because Malawi appreciates that the development of space technology holds immense potential to benefit both developed and developing countries and remains pivotal to the achievement of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Like many Least Developing Countries, Malawi relies on assured access to space based systems and its applications to support its economic prosperity and maintain public safety.

I thank you