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**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**On the occasion of the Universal Periodic Review of Malawi  
22<sup>nd</sup> Session**

**Statement by:**

**Benedict Lawrence Lukwiya  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

**Geneva, 05 May 2015**

*Please Check against delivery*

**Mr. President**

Uganda welcomes Malawi's participation in the second cycle of the UPR process and thanks the delegation for the comprehensive country report.

We note that since the last review, Malawi has undergone two peaceful political transition processes which confirm commitment to the rule of law.

While encouraging progress has been registered between 2010 and now, we also note that a number of important Bills are still before Cabinet awaiting completion of the legislative processes.

In 2010, the Government of Malawi promised to undertake, as a matter of priority, a review process of the Witchcraft Act. This is an important undertaking whose accomplishment would go a long way in the protection of human rights in Malawi.

Uganda welcomes the Gender Equality Act that was passed in 2013 which provides for the protection of women from harmful practices. But it is also noted that there are still laws in force in Malawi which discriminate against women. Of particular concern are the harmful cultural practices related to child marriage. We urge the government to fast track the enactment of the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Bill.

**Mr. President,**

In concluding, my delegation would be happy to hear what measures the Government of Malawi intends to put in place to ensure implementation of and compliance with the laws that have been enacted and those that the Government has undertaken to enact.

I thank you.