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Madame President

New Zealand **welcomes** Malawi’s participation in this process. New Zealand also **congratulates** Malawi on its successful election and peaceful transition of power in 2020.

While we **note** positively the launching of Malawi’s National Strategy for Adolescent Girls and Young Women, New Zealand is **concerned** that gender-based violence and discrimination against women reportedly continues. We **recommend** the finalisation of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2006 to include definitions of sexual harassment and its position in relation to Intimate Partner Violence. We also **recommend** greater law enforcement capacity to investigate cases of suspected sexual assault.

Women also continue to have less access to educative opportunities than men, particularly at the tertiary level. New Zealand **recommends** the introduction of further measures to provide for equitable access to education by women across all education sectors.

Despite a moratorium on prosecution, laws prohibiting consensual same-sex relations remain in force in Malawi. New Zealand **recommends** Malawi formally decriminalises consensual same-sex relations between adults, and introduces comprehensive anti-discrimination laws inclusive of the LGBTQI+ community.

Thank you, Madame President.