

**Statement by H.E.M Fancis LAZALO KASAILA,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malawi.**

1. On the occasion of the visit of the delegation of Malawi to Morocco, discussions focused on ways and means to strengthen bilateral relations through the implementation of concrete actions in the fields of agriculture, fertilizers, training, tourism and investments.
2. The two countries confirmed their determination to enhance their relations to the level of a genuine partnership for the benefit of the peoples of both countries. In this regard, concrete projects will be identified and signed very soon.
3. In addition, the two countries agreed to strengthen their political coordination in the interests of the African continent for the promotion of peace, security, stability and development.
4. On the occasion of this visit, Morocco informed the delegation of Malawi about the latest developments related to the issue of Western Sahara.
5. The delegation of Malawi expressed its commitment to support the efforts of the United Nations, through the Security Council and the Secretary general to reach a lasting and mutually acceptable political solution the conflict of Western Sahara.
6. The delegation of Malawi wishes to contribute positively to this United Nations process by maintaining a neutral position which does not prejudice its outcome.
7. Accordingly, the Republic of Malawi has decided to withdraw its recognition of the "Sahraoui Arab Democratic Republic" which recognized it on 6<sup>th</sup> march 2014.
8. The Republic of Malawi expresses the wish that this position of neutrality and support for the efforts of the United Nations will send a strong political signal to all the parties for the search for a lasting political and mutually acceptable solution to this long-standing regional conflict.

**Rabat, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017**