



Permanent Representation of the Kingdom
of Belgium to the United Nations

One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
885, Second Avenue, 41st Floor
New York, NY 10017
Tel: +1(212)378 63 00
Fax: +1(212)681 76 18
Mail: newyorkun@diplobel.fed.be
www.diplomatie.be/newyorkun

Permanent Mission of the Republic
of Malawi to the United Nations



866 UN Plaza, Suite 486
New York, NY 10017
Tel: +1(212)317 8718/8738
Fax: +1(212)317 8729
Mail: MalawiNewYork@aol.com
MalawiU@aol.com
<http://www.un.int/wcm/content/site/malawi>

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Dear Colleague,

The Ad hoc working group (AHWG) to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category has been established by the General Assembly on the 22nd of December 2011 by decision A/66/L.30 (see copy in attachment). The terms of reference of the ad hoc working group have been adopted on the same occasion.

We are very honored and grateful to the President of the General Assembly for appointing us as co-chairs of this Ad hoc working group. In his letter of January 3, 2012 to all Member States announcing that decision, the PGA has also pointed at a number of parameters regarding the working methods of the AHWG. You will find herein attached a copy of the said letter of the PGA, for your ease of reference.

We are pleased to invite you to the first meeting of the Ad hoc working group on **Monday, January 16, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 1 (NLB)**. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss organizational matters and to adopt the Programme of Work. Please find attached a copy of the proposed draft Programme of Work.

Your substantive contribution and active participation will be highly appreciated in the course of the activities of the AHWG.

Please also find attached a copy of the provisional agenda of the AHWG. A concept note on the subject of the smooth transition has been drafted by OHRLLS and will be posted on the OHRLLS web page.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Jan Grauls,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
Belgium to the United Nations

Brian G. Bowler,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
Malawi to the United Nations