

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UN Secretary-General welcomes mediation talks in Malawi**

**Lilongwe, 18 August 2011** – The UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban-Ki-Moon welcomes the signing of the Joint Communiqué by representatives of the Government of Malawi and of the civil society organizations, following a meeting facilitated by the United Nations in Lilongwe on 16 August 2011.

The Secretary-General is encouraged by this positive development which reflects the commitment of both sides to engage constructively in the search for a peaceful solution to the country's current difficulties.

The Secretary-General considers the communiqué an important step towards a dialogue process. He calls on the Malawian stakeholders to continue their efforts to create a political and social atmosphere conducive to addressing the multifaceted challenges in the country.

The Secretary-General is pleased with and strongly supports the facilitation role played by Mr. João Honwana, Director at the UN Department of Political Affairs. He reiterates the UN's readiness to continue its facilitation efforts as requested by the parties.