



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania  
to the United Nations**

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**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**HIS EXCELLENCY  
BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA**

**DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE  
OF THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2004**

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF  
TANZANIA, HIS EXCELLENCY BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA, DURING  
THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK,  
21 SEPTEMBER 2004**

**Mr. President:**

I congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I assure you of Tanzania's support as you discharge your mandate.

I pay tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Julian Hunte, for his able stewardship of the work of the General Assembly.

I commend the Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, and his staff, for their tireless efforts during a very difficult year.

**Millennium Development Goals**

**Mr. President:**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represent our vision and hope for a new global partnership for shared global prosperity and security—an ideal at the very heart of the United Nations. But we are still way off the mark in meeting many of them, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. We must further strengthen our common resolve to act in their resolute pursuit. In this, as in other things, actions speak louder than words.

We commend Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden for consistently meeting the long-established UN target of allocating at least 0.7% of the national incomes of rich countries to development cooperation. These countries have broad national consensus on this matter; and their people are not in any way poorer because of it!

We urge the other rich countries to produce timetables to meet this long overdue target, to have coherent development policies, and to earnestly and deliberately build and nurture a national consciousness and consensus on the global war on poverty. This war should now be a central political issue for all countries, rich and poor. Only then will the political will to do more for the timely attainment of the MDGs be generated.

It is true money is not a panacea, but the 8<sup>th</sup> MDG—"Develop a Global Partnership for Development"—may actually be the single most important key to unlocking new initiatives and latent capacities to enable the attainment of MDGs. And a genuine partnership implies shared rights and responsibilities, as well as a shared commitment to be evaluated. I commend the Governments of the Netherlands and Denmark for conducting, and making public, evaluations of their performance in meeting their commitments under the eighth millennium development goal.

On our part, never before have so many African governments committed themselves to good democratic governance, to peer review, to ownership of the development agenda, and to participatory prioritisation and sequencing of the tasks necessary for the attainment of MDGs. We now need equally unprecedented commitment in deeds not words—to the global war on poverty in all rich countries. African countries doing their part in the global compact on poverty alleviation should not be constrained by lack of supportive external resources. In Monterrey, developed countries pledged to match stronger reform efforts in developing countries with

increased support. Tanzania asks that they should now show leadership by delivering on their promises.

When both rich and poor countries meet their obligations, tangible progress is realised. My country is an example. Our Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP), for instance, has recorded remarkable progress. We now expect to attain the education goal in 2006. Gender parity has been attained, and the Net Enrolment Ratio is already 90.1 per cent. Pass rates have doubled over the last 4 years. This was made possible by increased budgetary allocation to the sector, debt relief, increased aid channelled through our own budget, and local ownership and participation. We are grateful for the cooperation we have received from our development partners. Together we have shown what can be done where there is political will.

### **Globalisation**

#### **Mr. President:**

Yesterday, my colleagues and I launched the Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization entitled: "A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All." The report is a contribution by Commissioners with varied backgrounds and experiences. It is also a reflection of the views of many ordinary people consulted through national and regional dialogues. It presents one important consensus: globalization has produced both striking achievements and harmful distortions in global growth and development. We all agreed that, left unchecked, globalization will exacerbate the wealth gap—within and between nations—thereby planting the seeds of social instability and crime on a national and global scale.

But the report also presents the prospect of hope. Globalization, when properly governed, can be a force for good; a catalyst for change and for meeting the MDGs. I commend the report to this august Assembly.

#### **Mr. President:**

Responses to the challenges of globalisation have to begin at home. Good governance, prudent monetary and fiscal policies, macro-economic stability, peace and security, protection of property rights, setting priorities for poverty reduction, and creation of a conducive environment for investment and trade, between Africans themselves and between Africa and the rest of the world, are all things we in Africa have to address.

But I must stress one conditionality. No solutions to Africa's problems can be sustainable unless they are genuinely embraced and owned by the Africans themselves. We have shown our new resolve to come to terms with our problems, and to take the initiative and leadership in finding solutions. From our development partners we ask for corresponding genuine respect for this ownership, and the policy space for local initiative and leadership. We need policy space to deal with problems such as conflict, ethnicity, land and agrarian reform and institutional building; and we need adequate, consistent and predictable external support to implement the solutions we put forward.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

#### **Mr. President:**

The Democratic Republic of Congo deserves our continued and strong support. Instability in the DRC robs the entire region of its potential for shared progress, development and solidarity. The people of the DRC must continue to walk down the path of peace, reconciliation and unity. They need and deserve our robust help. We commend the efforts of President Mbeki and the South African government, and Tanzania pledges its unwavering support to them.

### **Burundi**

In Burundi we commend President Museveni of Uganda and the South African Vice-President, Mr. Jacob Zuma, for their dedication to helping Burundi realize a new political and social dispensation of inclusive governance, development and peace. The Regional Initiative for Peace in Burundi has made strenuous effort to accommodate, through negotiations, all the parties in a government of national unity. Sadly, the PALIPEHUTU-FNL has refused to be part of this process. Their declaration of responsibility for the massacres against innocent and unarmed refugees at Gatumba was for us in the region the proverbial last straw. So we took a stand, and declared the FNL a terrorist group. We appeal for your support in treating this group as such.

### **The Great Lakes Conference**

#### **Mr. President:**

The first International Conference on the Great Lakes, which Tanzania will host in November 2004, will review aspects concerning peace and security, governance and democracy, economic development and regional integration, as well as humanitarian and social issues in the region. Ultimately, we hope to adopt a comprehensive security, stability and development pact for the Great Lakes region. I thank the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region for supporting the preparatory process; and appeal to the United Nations and the international community to render their support to this process.

### **Darfur**

#### **Mr. President:**

The humanitarian tragedy in Darfur is harrowing and demands urgent remedy. A Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement must be promulgated, presaging the evolution of a democratic and political culture. We commend and support the effort by His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria and AU Chair, and President Idriss Deby of Chad. We ask for the practical, urgent and increased support of the United Nations, and the international community as a whole, to the initiatives of the African Union in addressing this tragedy.

### **Western Sahara**

#### **Mr. President:**

The question of Western Sahara has dragged on for too long. We support fully the right to self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. It is the duty of this august body to help them realize it. We support the UN peace plan, and call on all sides to cooperate fully in its speedy implementation.

### **Middle East**

#### **Mr. President:**

When the Middle East Road Map was adumbrated in 2003, we supported it believing that it addressed comprehensively the issue of the establishment of a viable Palestinian State living with the State of Israel, with recognized, secure borders between them. It is regrettable that the Road Map has been put aside. In our view, the Road Map remains the most reasonable, viable and sustainable way of resolving this long-standing conflict. We condemn the cycle of violence and killings, and the use of excessive force. We urge that the implementation of the Road Map be brought back on track.

### **Terrorism**

#### **Mr. President:**

The spectre of international terrorism is the most vicious and pernicious among international crimes. The people of Tanzania will never forget the terrorist attack directed at the American Embassy in Dar es Salaam in 1998 that killed and wounded

innocent Tanzanians. There should never be any doubt about our unflinching resolve to cooperate with others in combating terrorism in all its forms.

**Tanzania's Candidature for the Security Council**

**Mr. President:**

Tanzania is a faithful and active member of the United Nations, and we reaffirm our readiness to work with our fellow members in addressing global concerns in furtherance of the ideals of this Assembly and the Charter of the United Nations. It is, therefore, with deep humility and gratitude that the United Republic of Tanzania has secured the endorsement of the African Union to seek a non-permanent seat in the Security Council. Our candidature will be placed for election before this august Assembly later during this session. We appeal for the full support of every member of the United Nations for our candidature.

**HIV/AIDS**

**Mr. President:**

The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to ravage many of our countries. As public awareness grows, and technology improves, so are our chances of protecting the most basic human right—the right to life. This right can be enjoyed by our people if current and future advances in science and technology are extended to the many poor who are infected by HIV/AIDS. Preventive care, access to affordable drugs, and the health delivery infrastructure in developing countries, all need to be widened and strengthened.

**United Nations Reform**

**Mr. President:**

Democratic governance is a universal norm which has to be reflected also in the United Nations system. What is desirable for our individual countries must also be true for the UN. Recent developments in the reform agenda of this organization must, therefore, be expedited. Our hope is that the Report of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change will bring forth recommendations for a firm jump forward in the reconfiguration of the reform process.

The Security Council must be representative of today's wider membership of the United Nations and reflective of the current geopolitical and economic structure of the world. There are countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America that deserve a permanent seat because of their major contribution to the sustainability of this organization, and to global peace, security and development. The time to bring them in has come.

**Mr. President:**

Members of the United Nations must uphold, in word and in deed, steadfastly, the ideals of its Charter for peace with justice, and for security with development for all. These common aspirations are the foundation of international law, of international order and of international cooperation. They also invest credible legitimacy to our collective pursuit of the happiness of humanity and the renewal of its environment. Working together, we can ascend to the heights we aspire. Only then shall we leave to next generations a deserving legacy of a common future for all mankind.

**Mr. President:** I thank you.