



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

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**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE DR. JUMA NGASONGWA,
MINISTER FOR PLANNING, ECONOMY AND EMPOWERMENT
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE HIGH
LEVEL MEETING ON THE MID-TERM COMPREHENSIVE
GLOBAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME
OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2001 - 2010.**

18 SEPTEMBER 2006

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Madam President,

My delegation joins other delegations in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau for your well-deserved election to spearhead the deliberations of this very important meeting. I also commend the Secretary General for his report, contained in document A/61/173.

I would like to associate this statement with the statements made by the President of the Republic Benin, H.E. Dr. Thomas Yayi Boni, and the Honourable Minister of the Republic of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the LDCs and the Group of 77 and China respectively.

Madam President,

At the end of our meeting we will adopt a Ministerial Declaration in which, among other things, we recommit and reaffirm our shared responsibility in lifting the lives of millions of people anguished by poverty in the LDCs through the full implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA). Some progress has been made but we still have a long way to go if we are to fully realise the objectives contained in the Programme of Action. As of now, we are halfway in the implementation of the BpoA, but in reality we are very far behind in achieving half of the commitments and targets set out in the Programme. This is in itself an urgent challenge to all of us who signed to the BPoA in 2001 to reassess our individual and collective shortfalls and to intensify our efforts to meet the targets within the remaining period.

The meeting today is a culmination of intensive preparatory process at the national, regional and global levels. The outcomes of these preparatory meetings revealed that **some** LDCs are making headway but the majority **are still lagging** behind. One of the outcomes of the preparatory meetings is the Cotonou Strategy for the further implementation of the BPoA adopted by the LDC's Ministers in Benin. The Cotonou Strategy outlined progress, but most importantly identified gaps and made recommendations for the way forward. My delegation trusts that these recommendations will be taken seriously by the LDCs' development partners in the remaining five years to meet the targets in the Programme by 2010.

Madam President,

The preparatory meetings reaffirmed that the primary responsibility for the development of the LDCs lies with their peoples and governments. The 'commitments of the LDC's peoples and governments to the principle of primary responsibility and ownership are reflected in their efforts to undertake economic, social, political and institutional reforms. There has never been a period before when LDCs have introduced and implemented successful reforms as in the last five years. In this period, there has been substantial improvement in the GDP growth. Six LDCs achieved and surpassed the target of 7 per cent GDP growth rate, whereas 11 were on track. Most of the LDCs had an average GDP growth of between 3 and 5 per cent. Other achievements recorded during the same period include increased participation in the global trade, increase in domestic resource mobilisation, implementation of good governance practices and human rights principles. The intensification in combating corruption, holding of transparent and democratic elections, increase in the participation of women in decision and policy making institutions, and resolving and decrease in internal conflicts are among such far-reaching reforms. In spite of these achievements, the overall performance of all LDCs and the pace of halving poverty by 2015 are not encouraging.

In order for the LDCs to sustain the momentum, their efforts should be timely and genuinely supported by a conducive international development environment. We demand and give a fresh call to our development partners to meet their obligations. The debt cancellation of most LDCs is making a significant impact on domestic savings. However, the timetable for the fulfilment of the ODA target of 0.15 to 0.2 per cent remains to be honoured. The transfer of technology, the elimination of all trade distorting mechanisms, the creation of favourable markets, assistance in enhancing productive capacities and exports diversification are all essential measures and undertakings if poverty is to be halved in the LDCs by 2015.

Madam President,

The fourth phase of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania under H. E. President Jakaya Kikwete is committed to maintaining and accelerating the momentum generated by his predecessor, H.E. Benjamin Mkapa to the full realisation of the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action.

Far reaching reforms have been introduced, including in the areas of governance, education, human rights, democracy, rule of law and fiscal reforms. The privatization of trade and commerce, agriculture, mining, tourism and industrial sectors is yielding positive results in the GNP of the country. The co-publication of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation entitled "Doing Business 2007: How to Reform" has named Tanzania among the top 10 reformers in the world in 2005/06 and the second in Africa after Ghana. The publication states and I quote, "Tanzania introduced electronic data interchange and risk-based inspections at customs. The time to clear imports fell by 12 days". These are commendable remarks.

In the period under review, 2001/2006, the GDP growth rate registered an increase of between 5 to 7 per cent; the inflation rate decreased from 5.1 per cent to 4.2 per cent; FDI increased and financed about 20 percent of Tanzania's investment; between 2004 and 2005 per capita income increased by 12.9 percent.

In the area of good governance, Tanzania continues to perform very well. The fourth successful democratic and transparent general elections held in December 2005 attest to the dawn of democratic governance in Tanzania. The zero tolerance policy of the government to fight corruption has been intensified in both public and private sectors.

The outcome of the 2005 elections clearly indicated the will and determination of the Government to increase the participation of women in decision and policy making. It was in these elections that the country managed to attain the goal of 30 per cent for women parliamentarians as required by the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The current cabinet is comprised of 16 women, of whom 6 are full Ministers and 10 are Deputy Ministers. Above all, all six Ministers hold key ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education and Vocational Training; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children; and Ministry of Public Service Management. This is an historical leap forward since our independence in 1961.

Madam President,

The government has fruitfully completed the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) which resulted in, among other things, completion of the HIPC initiative and qualification for the total debt relief from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank. Tanzania has already benefited from a 100 per cent debt cancellation under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). We encourage other multilateral institutions and bilateral donors to follow suit.

We are now implementing the second phase of the PRS called the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) which is the national framework for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as internationally agreed targets for reducing poverty, hunger, diseases, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women by 2015. Unlike the first generation of the PRSPs which focused on social sectors, the NSGRP focuses on three clusters, namely, economic growth and reduction of income poverty; quality of life and social well being; and good governance and accountability. The government has realized that without sustained economic growth, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve the goals of the BPoA, MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals. We are grateful to our development partners for their confidence in our strategy and predictable assistance including budget support for our development plans. Through this partnership, we have realized the importance of timely and predictable assistance for achieving time-bound targets.

Madam President,