



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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

**HON. SOPHIA SIMBA, MINISTER OF STATE, PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE, GOOD GOVERNANCE**

TO THE

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**ON FOLLOW UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON
WOMEN AND TO THE TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENTITLED "WOMEN 2000: GENDER
EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE FOR THE TWENTY-
FIRST CENTURY"**

TUESDAY, 2 MARCH 2010

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Chairperson,

The delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania joins others in congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your election. We assure you of our support and cooperation as you discharge your duties.

We align ourselves with statements read by the Ambassador of Yemen on behalf of the group of 77 and China and by the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea on behalf of the African Group.

Allow me to express my grief and solidarity for the people of Haiti and Chile.

Chairperson,

The Beijing Platform for Action is a blue print for women's advancement and empowerment and Tanzania is proud to have had Dr. Getrude Mongella as the Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Its review should thus contribute to the forthcoming Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council, and to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly which will focus on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The government of the United Republic of Tanzania is fully committed to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly. There is a strong political commitment from the President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete and down all leadership levels to improve the rights of women. In Tanzania today, the attainment of gender equality and women empowerment is no longer open for negotiation rather the issue on hand is the implementation of actions to achieve them. Gender equality objectives have been mainstreamed in government policies and programmes including the poverty reduction strategies popularly known as MKUKUTA for Tanzania mainland and MKUZA for Zanzibar.

Chairperson,

We have made notably achievement on the education of the girl child where gender parity has been attained at the primary school level and the number of girls in secondary and tertiary education has significantly increased. Providing opportunity for girls in education is not only a good investment for the nation, but it also reduces early marriages. One of the key challenges to girls' education is improving the schools and the social environment to retain girls and improve their performance.

In economic empowerment of women the government has a deliberate program to empower women economically including through improving the business environment and building positive

images of women businesses. To further facilitate access to financial services, the government has established a women's bank, which will provide training and soft loans to women. The government further enacted The Land Act No. 5 and Village Land Act No. 4 of 1999 to provide among other issues, for the right of land ownership for both women and men. The Land Act No 2 of 2002 established Land Tribunals which must include not less than 43 percent women. In the employment area, the government has enacted Employment and Labor Relations Act, 2004, which prohibits discrimination on any ground including on sex; the act for the first time has provided a seven day paternity leave for men in addition to their normal paid leave.

The participation of women in decision making positions is another area where there has been significant improvement. The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania and that of Zanzibar provide for 30 percent special seats for women in Parliament and in The House of Representatives. Moreover, the election law in Local Councils in Tanzania Mainland provides for one third women councilors. In Zanzibar, at the Local Governance level the Miscellaneous Amendment Act No. 10 of 2005 provides for 30% special seats for women representation in the Municipal, Town and District Councils. There has also been a significant increase of women judges in the High court which has now reached 33.9 and in the Court of Appeal of Tanzania is 23.8 percent. Affirmative action continues to be a necessary strategy to give women the opportunity to participate in decision making processes.

Chairperson,

Internationally Tanzania has continued to fulfill her international obligations related to women advancement and we have submitted our reports to treaty bodies. We believe that we need a vehicle to support the implementation of recommendations of treaty bodies, the Beijing Platform for Action and other commitments to promote the rights of women, and that vehicle is a strong gender entity. It is in this regard that we support the establishment of the composite gender entity which we understand will have a strong field presence.

Tanzania has also been active in the peace processes in the region and in particular in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. It should be noted that women and children are the most vulnerable group in times of armed conflicts; they are the ones who suffer the most. Women should thus be at the center of the peace negotiations and in this regard we call for the implementation of Security Council resolutions S/RES/1325 (2000), S/RES/1820 (2008), S/RES/1888 (2009), and S/RES/1889 (2009) on women, peace and security

Chairperson,

Fifteen years after Beijing many obstacles including culture and traditions, violence against women, inadequate financial and human resources, insufficient gender disaggregated data to influence policy and planning and weak capacities of gender machineries still impede the

attainment of gender equality and empowerment of women. The current economic, food insecurity and energy crises as well as climate change threatens to reverse the gains already made. Women are the most vulnerable to the negative impacts of the crises and thus efforts to curb these crises have to consider the gender dimensions.

Allow me to conclude by acknowledging the crucial role of the civil society and our development partners in the implementation of the Beijing platform for action and the outcome of the 23rd session of the Special session of the General Assembly. The government of the United Republic of Tanzania is ready to work with the international community to the attainment of gender equality and the empowerment of women in all economic, social and political and culture spheres.

I thank you.