



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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

**HON. SOFIA SIMBA (MP) MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
GENDER AND CHILDREN OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**AT THE 57TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
"THE ELIMINATION AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND
GIRLS"**

NEW YORK, MARCH, 2013

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Chairperson,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania recognizes that violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights and has devastating effects on individuals, communities and societies, and bears significant economic and social costs for national development. As a result, various measures have been taken to eliminate and prevent violence against women and girls. The Government has amended its Constitutions (United Republic of Tanzania (1977) and that of Zanzibar 1984); reviewing discriminatory legislations; and enacting new Acts which advocate for elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls. Tanzania has also, ratified and domesticated a number of major international instruments that promote gender equality and human rights.

Chairperson,

Violence against women and girls has been mainstreamed in the National Poverty Eradication Strategies where it is identified as one of its indicators of poverty. The National Plan of Action for Elimination and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children (2001-2015) and National Plan of Action for Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (2001-2015) have also been developed.

A Multi- sectoral Strategy and Action Plan for Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence in Zanzibar have been developed while in Mainland a National Multi-sectoral Committee on Violence against women, Children and albino has been established.

Chairperson,

The security and justice institutions, including police and military forces, are primarily concerned with violence after the act, yet their responses can also influence prevention. In this regard, the Government has established Tanzania Police Female Network (TPFNet) within the police force with the aim to equip the Tanzanian police with necessary information and other tools to assist them in dealing with alleged victims of Gender Based Violence.

Furthermore, Tanzanian Women Judges Association (TAWJA) brings together female high court judges, law enforcers and magistrates from across the country in their commitment to strengthen women's access to justice. TAWJA trains Judicial Officers and other Law Enforcers in the promotion of the values of CEDAW and other International and Regional instruments. TAWJA's unique training system enables it to have a wide reach across the country.

Chairperson

Health and social welfare services, particularly maternal and reproductive health centres, are key entry points that provide support and referrals to services and protection for victims of violence. For instance, violence against women and girls may begin or increase during pregnancy and following the birth of children. Activities such as visits by maternal and child health nurses, as well as engaging men as future fathers, can contribute to prevention or early intervention efforts. Such activities can have a positive impact on preventing violence against women and girls and other abuses, such as child abuse.

In this regard, **Madam Chairperson**, my delegation strongly supports the Secretary General's view in his report regarding the expansion of Health Services particularly strengthening maternal and reproductive health centres. The health centres serve as critical entry points that provide support and referrals to services and protection for victims of violence. We urge the international community to work together in supporting this endeavour.

We also believe that tertiary education can provide an opportunity to sensitize and train future professionals dealing with cases of violence against women and girls, including legal and health professionals, through specialized courses and curricula. We call upon the international community to consider this as one of the priorities in the fight against Gender based Violence.

Chairperson,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has made progress in mainstreaming policies, strategies, programmes and plans to eliminate gender based violence. We are however faced with a challenge of translating policy into practice.

Many obstacles including capacity building, insufficient gender disaggregated data to influence policy and planning, weak capacities of gender machineries and changing the mind-sets of the people is a continuous challenge requiring enduring commitment. Despite these constraints, the foundation has been laid and there is undying commitment and determination to advance this cause.

Chairperson,

In conclusion, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank UN Women, UN Agencies and other stakeholders for their participation and support to the “Mt. Kilimanjaro Climb Campaign to End violence against women and girls” which my Government had the pleasure of hosting last year. By climbing the tallest mountain in Africa, each climber, affirmed his/her commitment to ending violence against women and girls, and sent a clear message to African and the world to tackle the problem through holistic policies, services, laws and public campaigns. The Mt. Kilimanjaro Climb campaign amplified our resolve to maintain this issue high on our agenda and to expose and put an end to all forms of violence against women and girls. The United Republic of Tanzania will continue to play its part. We believe that no woman has to be a victim of physical or psychological abuse. Together we can create a world where women and girls live free from violence.

I Thank You