



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

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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**AT THE 64TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

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*Your Excellency, Ambassador Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the
United Nations General Assembly;*

Your Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Excellencies Heads of State and Government;

Distinguished Representatives and Heads of Delegations;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mr. President;

It is indeed an honour and a pleasure for me to extend to you my very warm congratulations on your well deserved election to the Presidency of the 64th Session of the General Assembly. I hope during your Presidency you will help advance the revitalisation of the General Assembly, reinforce multilateralism and promote dialogue among civilisations. I promise you my personal as well as the cooperation of the Tanzanian delegation in the discharge of your responsibilities.

Allow me also to use this opportunity to pay tribute to your predecessor, His Excellency Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, a job well done. I thank him for the honour he recently bestowed upon the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the founder President and Father of the Tanzanian nation.

Mr. President;

Our deep appreciation also goes to our illustrious Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his diligent service to the United Nations and to mankind. His exemplary leadership and commitment to action in addressing the global challenges is being appreciated by many of us. We wish him and his entire team greater success in the future.

Drought Situation and Food Security

Mr. President;

For over five years now, a number of countries in Eastern Africa including Tanzania, have been experiencing unprecedented drought. We have never seen anything like this before. May be the effects of climate change are taking its toll.

As a result of this, agricultural production has been affected severely causing acute food shortages and shortage of pasture and

water for livestock resulting into death of our livestock and wildlife. Rivers are drying up causing interruptions in hydropower generation.

The effects of the drought are threatening to reach catastrophic proportions if the shortage of rain will persist for the next few years. It is important for the United Nations to be aware of this growing danger and look into ways of assisting us. We should not wait until graphic pictures of emaciated and dying children dominate the TV screens and newspapers for us to act.

Agriculture Development in Africa

Mr. President;

History has taught us that the greatest successes in the development of nations begun with agriculture. No doubt, therefore, the low levels of developments in Africa today are indicative of the underdevelopment of African agriculture. Indeed, African agriculture is backward and productivity is low. It needs to be transformed and modernised. The African green revolution has taken too long to happen.

Concerted efforts by African governments and donors are required. Unfortunately, for us there isn't as much interest on the

part of donors to support agricultural transformation in Africa as there is for other sectors. This is an unfortunate omission which needs to be corrected. We look to the United Nations to take the lead in this regard.

Youth Unemployment in Africa

Mr. President;

The third thing I would like to raise for discussion and action is the problem of youth unemployment in Africa. Africa faces one of the biggest unemployment challenges on this planet. African youth make up 37 percent of the working age population in Africa but 60 percent of the unemployed. In some nations youth unemployment is up to 80 percent. Africa has the fastest-growing and most youthful population in the world. Over 20 percent of Africa's population is between the ages of 15 to 24. As a result, a constantly rising number of young Africans have been entering, and will continue to enter, a labour market that has not been expanding as fast.

Beyond economic costs, high rates of youth unemployment have had negative consequences in our continent. We have seen how some youths with no job, prospects and little hope of getting

any have become the petrol to raging tires of conflict. They easily fall prey easily to war lords, criminal gangs and political manipulators to the detriment of peace and stability in their countries.

Mr. President;

Creating job opportunities for Africa youths is gigantic task which governments of poor economies in Africa cannot deliver alone. Friends of Africa in the international community have an important role to play in this regard.

Allow me, Mr. President, to commend the Danish government for showing the way. In April, 2008 they formed the Danish Commission for Africa to address youth unemployment challenge in Africa. The Commission, which I was fortunate to serve, came up with five bold initiatives which I believe, if strong international partnership can be forged to have them implemented, we can turn the large youth unemployment problem into an opportunity and not a challenge. I humbly ask this august Assembly for an opportunity for the report of the Commission to be presented to this General Assembly.

At the same time, I propose that, this General Assembly of the United Nations consider dedicating a decade to focus on youth employment in Africa. Probably this could be the year after next year (2011-2020).

Climate Change

Mr. President,

Two days ago, we had a fruitful High-Level Summit on climate change. I would like to thank and congratulate Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for his leadership in this important and challenging issue of our time. The event will go a long way towards paving the way for a comprehensive agreement.

It was heart warming indeed to hear President Barack Obama assure this world body that the United States will join other nations in the common endeavour to save our common planet. We are also happy that under the leadership of Prime Minister Gordon Brown a consensus has emerged to make additional resources available to assist developing nations in their efforts for adaptation, mitigation and pursuing clean development.

Malaria, Maternal Health and MDGs

Mr. President;

Allow me to talk about three side events which took place during this General Assembly.

The first one is the panel discussion on accelerating the implementation of the MDGs which was organised by Mrs. Helen Clark the new UNDP Administrator together with Hon. Douglas Alexander, the UK Secretary for International Development. At this meeting important impressions were made about the successes and shortcomings with regards to implementation of the MDGs. The meeting is a curtain raiser for next year's MDG Summit. I hope all of us will take seriously the observations and conclusions so that there will be no default come 2015.

The second was the meeting on maternal and child health convened by Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom, with the support of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the World Bank President, Mr. Robert Zoelick. The meeting has been a great success. I was impressed and encouraged by the commitment of Prime Minister Gordon Brown and the support of the World Bank President Robert Zoelick to save the

lives of innocent mothers and children who die of causes which can be prevented. While I applaud and thank Prime Minister, Gordon Brown for his leadership I appeal for unqualified support to the outcome of the meeting for the sake of saving the lives of many women and children in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world.

The third, is the launch of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) yesterday. This was a landmark event at which African leaders made unequivocal declaration of commitment to end malaria. ALMA provides the mechanism for advocacy, collective action and follow-up on measures to build capacities to eliminate the number one killer disease in Africa. Malaria can be prevented, cured, controlled and eliminated in Africa. I would like this UNGA to acknowledge this historic event and render support to the work of ALMA. Once again I thank Mr. Ray Chambers, the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Malaria, for successfully organising the event. I also thank all the African leaders for their support.

Peace and Security

Mr President;

The gains in development can easily be eroded if peace and stability are threatened. It is a matter of great comfort and pride that peace is reigning in most parts of the African continent except for one or two hot spots. Burundi is enjoying peace after many years of civil war and instability. This has facilitated the return of many Burundi refugees from Tanzania. There are more than 160,000 Burundi refugees, however, who have chose to remain and are applying to become Tanzanian citizens. We have in principle accepted their request and we are now finalising the procedures to grant them citizenship. However, I want this august body to know that my government has decided that, if accepted, they will be moved from the refugee camps and be resettled in various places in the country. We don't want them to remain with the refugee mentality. We also want Tanzanians to remove the attitude of continuing to consider them as refugees. This is going to be a very expensive exercise for which the support of the United Nations and others will be necessary.

Tanzania remains committed to contribute to peace in Africa and the world and I promise we will continue to play that historic role to the best of our ability. In this regard, we are making good progress on our promise to scale up our participation in peacekeeping missions. We have peacekeepers in the UN Mission in Lebanon and ready to do more. We are also in the final preparations of deploying a battalion of peacekeepers in Darfur. We are also going to honour a request by the United Nations to work with MONUC in training the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo army under MONUC's security sector reforms for the DRC. My message today is that we are ready to do more.

Palestine and Western Sahara

Mr. President,

Let me add my voice in support of two states solution: of Israel and Palestine living together side by side and at peace with each other. Tanzania is of the strong opinion that this is the best way to sustainable peace in the Middle East. With regards to Western Sahara, we call upon the United Nations Security Council to expedite the process of giving the people of Western Sahara the opportunity to decide on their future status. This matter has

dragged on for too long since 1975. Time has come to end the impasse.

Mr. President;

I would like to add my voice to reiterate that the UN reform will be incomplete without the structural reform of the UN Security Council, including Africa's attainment of two permanent seats in the Council. Giving seats to Africa is not a matter of favour, it is a matter of correcting the historical injustice against the continent and its people.

Unconstitutional Change of Government

Mr. President;

Last but not least, I would like to conclude by adding my voice to the appeal made by my colleagues from Africa for the United Nations to support African Union's position regarding unconstitutional changes of Government in Africa. In the recent few past years the ghost of unconstitutional changes of governments has been haunting Africa through military coups and so called mass action instigated by demagogue politicians. Both of them want to go into leadership by using shortcuts. The African Union has taken strong position which is enshrined in the AU Constitutive