

STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE MIZENGO P. PINDA, PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AT THE 65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 27 SEPTEMBER 2010

*Mr. President,
Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

1. Let me begin by congratulating you Mr. President for your well deserved election to preside over the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I assure you of Tanzania's full support and co-operation. I also thank and congratulate your predecessor, H.E. Dr. Abdisalam Treki for his leadership and accomplishments.

Mr. President,

2. Having just concluded a successful MDG Summit, I would like to congratulate the Secretary General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon for his leadership, dedication and commitment to the work of the Organization and for the new momentum he is bringing towards the achievement of the MDGs. Once again we welcome his Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health and urge the International Community to render the necessary support for its implementation.

Mr. President,

3. We emphasise the importance of national leadership and global partnerships in meeting the MDGs. Tanzania will do its part. We call upon all partners to do their part as stipulated under MDG eight.

4. One such partnership that is showing success is the collective efforts of African Leaders through the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) that is chaired by H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Our focus within ALMA is to ensure we attain the 2010 targets for universal coverage of appropriate malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions. We are confident that if the requested support is realized we can attain this target. It is for this reason that we ask for the full and timely replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Agriculture and Infrastructure

Mr. President,

5. We all know that the Millennium Development Goals will not be attained without sustained economic growth and sustainable development. For Tanzania, where the vast majority of the people depend on Agriculture for their incomes and livelihoods, poverty cannot be alleviated without addressing the challenges of production, productivity, and markets in the Agricultural Sector. Recognising this, Tanzania has developed a programme known as "Kilimo Kwanza" literally translated as "Agriculture First" aimed at transforming and modernizing the Agricultural Sector.

6. A key component of the programme is the improvement of infrastructure especially irrigation systems, transport and energy. However, the major challenge for us remains on how to finance the huge investment gap in infrastructure. This gap cannot be filled by the Public Sector Alone. For this reason, the participation of the Private Sector is imperative. Tanzania has been taking a number of reforms to create a conducive environment for Private Sector investment. We have created the requisite legal.

regulatory and institutional framework to attract both local and foreign private investment in infrastructure development. We now have a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy in place and the Parliament passed a PPP Bill in June this year.

Tanzania established also Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) through Presidential Circular as an institution providing a forum for public/private sector dialogue. The TNBC brings together Public and Private Sectors with a view to reaching consensus and mutual understanding on strategic issues relating to the efficient management of resources in the promotion of socio-economic development in Tanzania. The Chairperson of TNBC is the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Good Governance

Mr. President,

7. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania would like to reaffirm its commitment to Democratic Good Governance, rule of law and respect for human rights. A recent peaceful referendum in Zanzibar has produced a new political dispensation that provides for a Government of National Unity whichever party wins the elections. This should now stabilize Zanzibar and strengthen the democratic ideals we all aspire for as Tanzania prepares for its General Elections scheduled for 31st October 2010. Like in previous elections, we will do everything in our power to ensure that the elections are peaceful, free and fair. We thank all partners who bilaterally and through the UN system are strengthening our capacity to realize this goal.

Peace and Security in Africa

Mr. President,

8. Tanzania is pleased that Africa has continued to play a leading role in conflict prevention, management and resolution as well as entrenching Good Governance principles. Increasingly, more and more African countries are holding free, fair and peaceful elections followed by smooth transitions. The peaceful referendum in Kenya that paved the way for a new constitution demonstrates the will of African countries to take charge of their own destiny. This is a matter of great satisfaction to us and we commend the people and leadership of Kenya for this important achievement.

9. We thank and commend all who continue to work hard for a political solution to the situation in Darfur that can produce durable peace and address the humanitarian situation. We are concerned about periodic eruption of violence, and we call on all sides in Darfur to join the peace process. In the meantime, we commend the UNAMID for the good work they continue to do under very difficult conditions. We therefore urge the international community to give the UNAMID all the support they need.

10. We note the preparations and progress towards the holding of the referendum in Southern Sudan early next year. We call on all parties to do everything in their power to keep to the timetable for this referendum. The referendum must be peaceful, free and fair; and the wishes of the people of Southern Sudan have to be respected. We commend the UN Secretary General for his initiatives to facilitate this process, including his decision to appoint a Team of prominent persons headed by H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, the Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, to monitor the process. We pledge Tanzania's full support to H.E. Benjamin Mkapa and his team for the successful accomplishment of the task ahead of them. We urge all parties to cooperate with the team and call upon the International Community to provide the requisite support for the successful holding of this referendum and peaceful management of its outcome.

Mr. President,

11. Tanzania will continue to play its role in ensuring lasting peace and stability in Africa and elsewhere. This includes contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations and missions in Africa and elsewhere including those we have deployed in Darfur and Lebanon.

The Situation in Somalia

Mr. President,

12. We are concerned about the worsening political, humanitarian, social and security situation in Somalia which threatens the whole Region and ultimately the World. Recently, we have witnessed the terrorist bombings in Uganda by the Al-Shaabab group which caused the loss of many innocent lives and destruction of properties. Having been victims of similar attacks in Dar es Salaam in 1998, Tanzania condemns this barbaric attack in the strongest terms, and express solidarity with, and support to Uganda and other neighbours in tracking down and prosecuting those involved.

13. We highly commend Uganda and Burundi for contributing peace keeping troops in Somalia under the AMISOM. We further thank all those African countries that have made the commitments to provide additional troops to the AMISOM. We ask the International Community to provide the support needed to make this deployment possible and timely. However, the problem of Somalia cannot be left to Africans alone. In this regard, the Security Council must be more engaged and supportive in finding a lasting solution in Somalia.

Piracy

Mr. President,

14. Tanzania is concerned about the continued increase in piracy activities in the Gulf of Eden and Indian Ocean which is now spreading beyond the coast of Somalia. The piracy issue cannot be resolved on the seas alone, without addressing the causal factors on land. A coordinated, coherent, comprehensive and integrated response which includes political, military, financial and legal support is needed. The UN and the International Community should work closely with the African Union, members of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other Neighbouring States to suppress acts of piracy as well as apprehend and prosecute those who commit this crime. In the United Republic of Tanzania, we have recently amended the criminal code to allow our courts to prosecute suspected pirates under universal jurisdiction. We call upon the International Community to enhance the prosecution and custodial capacities of countries such as ours that apprehend and prosecute pirates. The international community must also accept to share with affected states post prosecution custodial responsibilities. Tanzania has also offered to train 1,000 Somali Soldiers in Tanzania in the firm belief that in the final analysis peace and security in Somalia will rest in the hands of the Somalis themselves.

Refugees

Mr. President,

15. Tanzania has over the years been a home for many Refugees. The current stability in our Neighbouring Countries has enabled voluntary repatriation of many refugees in addition to those we have naturalized. As a result, the population of refugees in Tanzania has declined from 1.2 million in 1994 to 108,426 by July 31st 2010. This has enabled the closure of 12 refugee camps. Tanzania has also continued with its tradition since independence of granting citizenship to refugees who have been in our country for many years. In April this year, we naturalized 162,254 refugees who entered the Country in 1972. The Government is now in the process of integrating the naturalized persons in the Tanzanian society. This however is a costly exercise. It is estimated that the Tanzania National Integration Programme for the naturalized persons will cost over 146 Million US Dollars. This is a huge burden to a

poor country like Tanzania. We call upon the International Community to support this integration programme under the equitable responsibility and burden sharing principle.

System Wide Coherence

Mr. President,

16. We join others in welcoming the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 64/289 on System Wide Coherence that among other things, established the UN Women. It is our hope that the UN Women will receive the required support from the International Community and the entire UN System to deliver on its mandate. Tanzania congratulates Ms. Michelle Bachelet, for her appointment to head the UN Women. We assure her of Tanzania's unwavering support as she discharges her duties.

17. Tanzania's experience as a pilot country in the 'Delivering as One' UN reform initiative has convinced us that this indeed was a correct decision which strengthens national ownership and leadership. I am pleased that Tanzania will present a Common Country Programme in January 2011, being the first Country to do so.

Mr. President,

18. Tanzania fully supports the priorities you have set for the 65th Session of the General Assembly. Inclusive and Democratic Governance is as important at the national level as it is at the global level. It has sadly taken too long to give this issue the priority it deserves at all levels. We believe that the Inclusive Global Governance Agenda will ensure accountability and equitable participation in international trade and financial institutions, and open doors for fair and equitable participation of Developing Countries in the WTO, IMF and the World Bank.

19. Tanzania emphasizes and reaffirms the inclusiveness of the UN General Assembly as opposed to the UN Security Council. We thus call upon all member states of the United Nations to press for the expeditious reform of the Security Council. Africa has the largest number of UN Member States. It cannot continue to be denied fair representation in this important organ of the United Nations. We urge all Member States of the UN to support Africa in its rightful pursuit of permanent representation in the Security Council. In this regard, Tanzania reiterates the decision of the African Union as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus which demands not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right of veto as well as five non-permanent seats.

The Middle East and Western Sahara

Mr. President,

20. On the issues of the Middle East and Western Sahara. Let me reiterate what H.E. President Jakaya Kikwete said during the 64th Session of the General Assembly in 2009. Tanzania supports a 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.

21. On Western Sahara, also the President called 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.

Concluding remarks

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

17. Let me conclude by once again renewing Tanzania's belief and confidence in the United Nations as an Organization and Forum for global governance and pursuit of the letter and spirit of its Charter – a world free from wars and dehumanizing poverty, a world of sustainable economic and social progress as well as freedom, human rights and justice for all. We reaffirm our commitment to do our part in pursuit of that world!

I thank you for your attention!