



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

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. DR. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
AT THE 66<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 22ND SEPTEMBER 2011**

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*Mr. President,*

*Mr. Secretary-General,*

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I congratulate you, Mr. President on your very well deserved election as President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. My delegation has full confidence in you and we assure you of our full support and cooperation. I thank and congratulate your predecessor for very ably steering the affairs of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session.

Allow me also to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our illustrious Secretary General, His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon on his well deserved second mandate at the helm of our Organisation. His re-election reaffirms the trust that, we, the Member States have in him, his leadership skills and a recognition of his dedicated service to the United Nations and humanity.

Once again, I congratulate and welcome the newest member of the United Nations family, the Republic of South Sudan and assure them of Tanzania's continued friendship and cooperation.

**Tanzania Foreign Policy Goals since Independence**

*Mr President;*

This year the United Republic of Tanzania which is a union between two sovereign states: the Republic of Tanganyika and the Peoples Republic of Zanzibar will be celebrating fifty years of the independence of Tanganyika. We will also be celebrating 50 years of our membership of the United Nations. I stand before you today, 50 years later, to reiterate that same faith in, and that same commitment to the United Nations as expressed by the founders of our dear nation. I am proud that Tanzania has remained faithful to the ideals of the UNO, and proactive member of this august world body. We promise to remain the same for the next 50 years and beyond.

The people of Tanzania are happy to have had the opportunity to participate in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa and other parts of the world. We have always been ready to make humble contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa and other parts of the world when asked to do so by the United Nations. We have always believe that mediation, conflict prevention and pacific settlement of disputes are the best means of resolving conflicts. As a result, Tanzania has been in the forefront of mediation efforts to resolve conflicts in the countries around us, and in our region and elsewhere on the continent.

Our country also has been contributing troops, police, corrections and civilian personnel in UN peacekeeping missions and through regional and sub-regional arrangements. We promise to continue to do so whenever asked. But, more importantly we are humbled to have had the rare honour of pioneering efforts together with Denmark which lead to the creation of the Peace Building Commission in 2006.

*Mr President;*

We are also proud, in the 50 years of our membership of the United Nations, to have had the opportunity to contribute to the decolonization of Africa and other parts of the world. At independence, the founding father of our nation Mwalimu Julius Nyerere strongly opposed all forms of colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination on the African continent and elsewhere. He said, the independence of our country was incomplete until all countries of Africa were free. He then resolved to help others fight for their independence and freedom. We had the honour of hosting the Headquarters of the African Liberation Committee in Dar es Salaam until colonialism, apartheid and minority rule had been dismantled. We gave sanctuary as well as moral and material support to almost all the liberation movements of Southern Africa. Here at the United Nations Tanzania was afforded the rare honour of chairing the UN Special Committee on Decolonization from 1972 - 1980. This was the critical phase in the decolonization of Africa and the struggle against apartheid and minority rule. It is heartwarming indeed, to see our efforts, sacrifices and contributions being rewarded so handsomely with the independence of all countries in Africa and apartheid being dismantled in South Africa. Only Western Sahara remains outstanding, I hope the United Nations will expedite the process so that people of Saharawi can determine their future.

*Mr. President;*

We believed at independence, as we believe now and always, that all human beings are equal and deserve equal pursuit and protection of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as outlined in what has come to be known as the International Bill of Rights.

It is in this spirit that I wish to reaffirm our solidarity with the Palestinian people in their rightful quest for an independent homeland. Our plea is for the fulfilment of the vision of two states: The State of Israel and a sovereign, independent, democratic and viable Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and harmony. That is why we also remain in full solidarity with the people of Cuba in demanding the end to all embargos against them. The people in these two countries have suffered far too long, it is time their burdens are eased from their shoulders.

*Mr President;*

Our other goal was and still is the attainment of African Unity. We believe in the strength of unity for us to be able to effectively face up to and overcome the daunting political, security and development challenges facing our respective countries and our continent as a whole. It is pursuit of this ideal that on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1964 Zanzibar and Tanganyika merged to form the United Republic of Tanzania. We will never tire in our efforts towards establishing the United States of Africa. However, we are mindful of the fact that this will be a gradual process and regional economic integration will be its foundation and the building blocks.

*Mr President;*

After 50 years of independence and 50 years of our membership of the United Nations, Tanzania remains a firm believer in the indispensability of multilateralism. It is through multilateralism that we can bring all nations and therefore all peoples together to shape their present and future and that of the world. It is multilateralism that will guarantee peace and development for all nations through pursuit of common values. It is for these reasons that I believe the United Nations is relevant today as it was 66 years ago. It is for the same reasons that the world needs the other multilateral institution for global economic socio political governance.

*Mr. President;*

Despite acknowledging the importance of the various multilateral institutions, Tanzania is of view that they need reforms to overcome the governance deficits within those institutions. We need reforms that will make them more representative and increase the voices of the developing countries. The original structures have ignored us, we should not allow this to continue. It is for this reason that Tanzania supported the call for reforms of the Bretton Woods Institutions, the United Nations, WTO and others. With regards to the United Nations we should expedite the process of reforms of the UN Security Council in both categories and include developing countries, including those from Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is sad to see that no progress is being made. Now is the time to start the negotiations in earnest.

*Mr. President;*

Development, particularly shared growth, has been one of the core functions of the United Nations. It is pleasing to note that the UN has remained steadfast in pursuit of this core functions through its agencies and funds through a number of initiatives. UN leadership has always been noticeable in all the major socio-economic challenges facing the world, sustainable development, healthcare, climate change, poverty, food security, education, water etc. This involvement and leadership underscores the relevance of the UN today and tomorrow.

However, the good intentions of the UN have not succeeded fully because some of the developed countries have not met their commitments of contributing **0.7 per cent** of their GDP to ODA. Let me use this opportunity to join all those who spoke before me in repeating our appeal to developed countries to honour their commitment. I believe if this were done we would have been on target with the implementation of the MDGs and many other important global matters. I would like to use this opportunity to thank and commend those few developed countries that have kept the promise. May examples of these countries encourage the others to do the same.

*Mr. President;*

We meet at a time of great uncertainties in the global economy, characterised by low growth in many major economies, high levels of inflation and unemployment, increasing food and fuel prices, and nervous financial markets. In a globalized world, ripples of economic and financial crises in the developed economies affect all of these in the world and damage poverty reduction prospects of the poorest members of the global economy. Before the onset of the global financial crisis, Sub-Saharan African economies grew by an average of six percent in 2008. A year later, most of them witnessed a big decline, seriously damaging their growth and poverty reduction prospects. We call for concerted global action to restore economic stability and ensure

that we do not head into a global recession which would have devastating consequences for economies of poor countries.

This is a matter of great concern to us in Africa, a continent that has experienced extremely challenging socio-economic and political situations, is now poised to make the transformation from despair to hope; from lost decades to decades of opportunity. Democracy is steadily on the march in Africa and the Arab Spring has capped it all. Peace is reigning almost all over the continent except for Somalia where there is a serious problem that still demands serious involvement of the UN, AU and the world community. All that Africa needs most is continued support to build the institutions of democracy and governance as well as in building economies and overcoming some serious challenges.

### Food Security

*Mr. President;*

Among such challenges that demand serious attention of this body and international community at large, is the continued drought in the Horn of Africa and some countries of East Africa. The problem has not abated and consequences are momentous as exemplified by the famine in Somalia. It is high time more attention is given to the situation in this part of Africa for there is every sign of the problem escalating and involving more countries. Tanzania is already feeling the pressure.

### Piracy and Terrorism

*Mr. President;*

Piracy is the second problem in our part of the continent that I would like to mention here today. The problems of piracy still lingers on and is expanding. We are now witnessing more and more attacks taking place as far South from Somalia to as far as Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar. Since last year, when piracy activity moved south into our territorial waters **13 ships have been attacked 5 of them were hijacked.** These attacks have caused an increase in the cost of shipping. If we don't succeed in stopping these attacks they may disrupt shipping services and impact negatively on our economy. We need the support of the international community to help build capacity to fight piracy. We welcome your readiness to assist us improve our courts and prisons to try and punish the pirates. If simply a gesture was extended to build capacity to prevent attacks there would be less pirates to bother us.

Controversies continue to prevent progress on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The more we delay the more sophisticated international terrorism becomes in its strategies and tactics. We have recently witnessed the dastardly attacks on the United Nations building in Abuja which caused the loss of innocent lives and a number of injuries Tanzania condemns this cruel act in the strongest terms and expresses solidarity with the Federal Government of Nigeria and the United Nations. It is clear that the struggle against terrorism must remain a high priority for the United Nations.

### Conclusion

*Mr. President;*

I end as I began by reaffirming our faith in the United Nations, a true embodiment of humanity. We dedicate ourselves to respect the values and principles enshrined in our Charter and we shall continue to play—as we always have done in

these first 50 years of our independence—a full, honest and constructive part in the work of our Organisation.

I thank you for your kind attention.