



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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY
HON. DR. ABDULKADER SHAREEF
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE 60TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

**STATEMENT BY HON. DR. ABDULKADER SHAREEF, DEPUTY MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF
THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2005**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania, I congratulate you, on your election as President of the 60th session of the General Assembly. I wish you every success. I also extend my delegation's gratitude to your predecessor, Hon. Jean Ping, for presiding over the 59th session of the General Assembly which, among other accomplishments, successfully negotiated the Outcome Document for the High Level Summit.

I should also, at the outset, salute the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his outstanding tenacious leadership of the United Nations, through one of the most trying interludes in the Organization's history. The period has probably been the most creative and visionary in the Secretary General's career, as he inspired the Organization and its membership, to embark on ambitious and much needed reforms, to make the Organization relevant and equal to the threats and challenges of a 21st century globalizing world.

Reforming the United Nations

Mr. President,

The just-ended High Level Summit has set the tone, agenda and direction, of where the United Nations should go, sixty years after its inception, at San Francisco in 1945. The pace of the reforms will be determined by the collective political dedication of us, the members of this Organization.

The process of the United Nations reforms has brought us together and reaffirmed the sovereign equality of nations, demonstrated the indispensability of collective action and the demands of shared responsibility and obligations in international affairs.

Although what we have agreed upon falls short of what we set out to accomplish, we have to put details on what we need to implement with the same spirit of collective dedication and a sense of common purpose. We should not allow political expediency and posturing to rob us of our declared objectives.

Development

Mr. President,

The glaring indignities of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and preventable diseases, amidst the glamour and opulence of prosperity in some

quarters of the world, should be relegated to the dustbin of history. It is doable and achievable if we implement the commitments, which we have resolved to undertake at the just-ended Summit. At Monterrey, we agreed on a framework for partnership. Gleneagles transformed a thirty-year pledge of 0.7% of GDP of Official Development Assistance into a timetable from some members of the G-8, and predictable increase from others. Debt sustainability has finally given way to debt cancellation to some countries, including my own, the United Republic of Tanzania. It is a tremendous relief, which will make a significant quantitative and qualitative difference to our development programmes and priorities.

Trade and investment have also received acceptance as central to growth in development. The Doha Trade and Development Round of Negotiations in Hong Kong, later this year, should be completed with agreements on pending issues such as subsidies.

The political capital generated at this Summit should bring a convergence between the resources from our development partners, with economic and political reforms and fiscal and institutional reforms already underway in Africa, into predictable and implementable development programmes.

The issue of absorptive capacity should not arise when there is coherence and coordination among our partners within a collaborative framework at country levels to mainstream assistance into national development strategies and priorities.

United Republic of Tanzania has already complied with the critical element of paragraph 22 (a) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, which calls on developing countries to adopt and implement a comprehensive national strategy to achieve the goals. We are ahead of time to achieve the goal on universal primary education, nine years ahead of 2015; on course in achieving the goals on access to safe drinking water; reducing child mortality and promoting gender equality in political participation and decision-making structures. With steady assistance and our macro-economic and political stability, we should get closer to achieving most of the goals by 2015.

Mr. President,

In Sub-Saharan Africa, individual countries accelerate reforms and improve the investment climate. Frontloading aid flows and innovative new sources of finance to bridge the financial gap for achieving the MDGs should be scaled up as should aid-in-trade to overcome supply side constraints, while subsidies and market access issues are simultaneously addressed in the international development agenda.

The outcome of the Helsinki Process, with its wealth of ideas, adds tremendous value to the reform process launched last week and the overall international development agenda. It addresses the political deficits and requirements to bring about purposeful development and democratic changes in this era of globalization.

Collective Security

Mr. President,

The relationship between development and security at national and international levels has clearly emerged during the debate and negotiations, on the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, which I do not need to over-emphasize here. The arms race in conventional and nuclear weapons can only bring the world to an apocalyptic brinkmanship by design or accident.

The agonizing endeavor to mobilize efforts for development to achieve the MDGs stands in stark contrast to the irony in expenditures of trillions of dollars in armaments of total and mass destruction. It is therefore most disconcerting that the Summit was unable to come up with an agreement on disarmament and non-proliferation.

We should not give up on the subject of disarmament and non-proliferation and, therefore, make another effort to resume negotiations on these issues. We in Tanzania, and in our region, are also particularly keen to see a global convention concluded soon, to regulate the marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons, and on illicit brokering of arms, which fuel violent conflicts and instability in our regions, in Africa.

Mr. President,

Collective security cannot be enhanced without reform of the Security Council. The reform of the Security Council has also been deferred but the issue of expansion of the Council and reform of its working methods should remain on the agenda, and negotiations on the issue should resume soon. United Republic of Tanzania supports the Ezulwini Consensus on the reform of the Security Council, bearing in mind that only Africa has neither a permanent seat nor a veto in the Council yet. Our interlocutors should recognize this imbalance in our negotiations and accommodate Africa's demands to make the Security Council more, and not less representative, and more and not less legitimate.

Mr. President,

The condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations brings us closer to an agreed definition, which would be helpful in galvanizing our undivided efforts to combat terrorism. The lack of an agreed

definition, however, should not delay an agreement on a comprehensive anti-terrorism convention, in the course of this General Assembly session. As a victim of terrorism in recent years, United Republic of Tanzania has a compelling reason to support a global anti-terrorist strategy.

Human Rights

Mr. President,

The respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people is entrenched in the purposes and principles in the Charter of the United Nations, and buttressed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For nearly sixty years, the institutional expression and status of human rights in the United Nations has been and is still evolving.

We support the establishment of the Human Rights Council to the extent that it will elevate the centrality of human rights, enhance the moral authority and integrity of the United Nations and overcome the shortcomings of the current Human Rights Commission. The new Council should embody the principles and practices of peer review, in its working methods, to avoid double-standards in accountability and compliance which have plagued the Human Rights Commission. The new concept of responsibility to protect merits our support after the recent international failures to protect people in Rwanda and Bosnia. Responsibility to protect should be a collective undertaking by states, to protect populations from genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. We shall need, however, to establish benchmarks and safeguards to guarantee against unilateral politically motivated interventions as has been the case from past experiences in ' what was conceived and presented as humanitarian intervention.

Humanitarian Response

Mr. President,

The African continent is the main scene of looming and several on-going natural and human-made disasters. Some are forgotten and protracted, while others receive initial media attention, but receive delayed and often inadequate response. We support the recommendations in the Outcome Document for new stand-by arrangements and funding for emergencies in Africa.

There is an international regime for the protection and assistance of refugees fleeing for their lives from persecution, violence and gross violations of human rights. United Republic of Tanzania has received and protected such victims since we became independent in 1961. Currently, Tanzania is still hosting over half a million refugees.

We are gratified and encouraged for the commitment in the Outcome Document to safeguard the institution of asylum and reaffirmation of the principle of solidarity and burden sharing in assisting refugee populations and their host communities.

We equally hope that the recognition of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement will provide more effective protection of internally displaced persons by relevant and appropriate authorities.

The Outcome Document has given due recognition to the tragedy of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, malaria and tuberculosis which has hit Africa very hard. This global awareness should be matched by adequate funding to save this and succeeding generations from the ravages of those diseases.

Peace and Security in Africa

Mr. President,

Tanzania would like to thank His Excellency President Olesgun Obasanjo of Nigeria for his statement, in his capacity as Chairman of the African Union, on the situation of conflicts, peace and security in Africa. We are grateful to him and to other African leaders and the Chairman of the African Union, President Konare, and all our friends outside Africa, for their dedicated efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa.

Last week, the Security Council adopted a resolution on strengthening the effectiveness of the Security Council role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, which, among other things, stresses the importance of averting conflicts to permit peaceful development, security and stability in Africa. The resolution also calls for strengthening cooperation and communication between the United Nations and regional organizations, like the African Union, in mediation efforts and peacekeeping.

Mr. President,

The bulk of United Nations peacekeeping operations are in Africa, following peace agreements, and are at various stages of implementation. Despite serious numerical, logistical, financial and sometimes image constraints, the multi-dimensional peacekeeping operations are making positive contributions to restoring peace in Africa in collaboration with the African Union and other friends of Africa. Political and operational partnership between the United Nations and the African Union need to be strengthened and institutionalized.

The institutional and operational requirement to bridge the transitional gap from peacekeeping to development, in the form of a Peace Building Commission is one of the main decisions in the current UN reforms.

Africa needs the Commission. It should be operational as soon as possible. The peaceful outcome in Burundi, Somalia and soon in Sierra Leone and Liberia need a peace building mechanism during the transition from peacekeeping through reconstruction to development. The peace processes of both Burundi and Somalia have had tortuous paths, but finally have peace agreements and transitional governments. The Peace Building Commission should focus its attention on both Burundi and Somalia among its priorities.

Mr. President,

The only remaining case of self-determination in Africa is Western Sahara. We appeal for maximum cooperation by the parties concerned and unrelenting support from the international community to the issue, through the Baker Plan. It is in the interest of all of us here to have a peaceful solution to this problem.

The Question of Palestine

Mr. President,

I cannot conclude my statement without addressing the situation in the Middle East and in particular the question of Palestine which remains of great concern to my Government. There have been path-breaking developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to revive the Road Map and invigorate the initiatives of the Quartet. The new leadership of Mr. Mahmoud Abbas for the Palestinian authority, the withdrawal of Israel from the Gaza Strip, and the coming elections in the occupied territories are injecting a new dynamism and positive direction in the peace process.

But we must accept the reality that the people of Palestine have equal rights to not only live in peace with all human dignity, but also to establish their own independent State, co-existing side by side with the State of Israel.

We should, therefore, do all that we can to help secure the just and lasting peace that is the right of the Palestinian, the Israeli and the Arab peoples.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to reiterate our deepest sympathies and condolences to the government and people of the United States of America in the wake of the death and destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

I thank you, Mr. President.