



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

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STATEMENT BY

**HON. SEIF ALI IDDI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
IN THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON
AGENDA ITEM 3(a) SOCIAL INTEGRATION**

THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2009

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STATEMENT BY HON. SEIF ALI IDDI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA IN THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2008

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania joins other delegations in congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your election. My delegation is confident with your leadership in steering this meeting to its successful conclusion. I assure you the full support and cooperation of my delegation

My delegation aligns itself with the statements read by the delegations of Namibia on behalf of the African group, South Africa on behalf of SADC and Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam Chairperson,

The government of the United Republic of Tanzania welcomes the deliberations on the priority theme for the 2009-2010 on social integration in particular at this time when the inequality gap within and among nations is widening and threatening the social cohesion of our communities.

The government of Tanzania is committed to the goal of social inclusion as this is in line with the traditional way of living within our communities. Since our independence, we have been developing and implementing people centered development policies. The decentralization programme that devolved powers to the local governments went as far as the village level to ensure the participation of people in decisions that affect their own development. In addition the government has in place policies devoted to vulnerable groups - the youth, the elderly, the family and people with disabilities. The government has incorporated issues of these social groups in the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction, which was developed in a participatory manner and included representatives from the social groups. The government continues to solicit their views in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy.

To further augment social protection of the vulnerable groups, the government has developed a National Social Protection Framework to improve the coordination and enforce implementation of pro-poor policies that ensures the improved livelihoods of extreme poor and vulnerable people. The Framework establishes guidelines for stakeholders involved in funding, planning and provision of social protection interventions in Tanzania.

Madam Chairperson,

Despite the government efforts, many challenges still remain in our quest to achieve social inclusion for all. Like in many other countries, poverty continues to be a major factor inhibiting social inclusion. In addition the high unemployment figures, the impacts of globalization, financial and food and energy crises further

compound the situation. As these are global challenges, concerted efforts, cooperation and collaboration at regional and international levels are essential.

Madam Chairperson,

The government of the United Republic of believes that full and decent employment is pivotal to the achievement of social inclusion. In this regard the government has established a national Employment Agency which, among other things, assists in linking unemployed job seekers including youth with potential employers within Tanzania and across borders. The government in collaboration with ILO is implementing the UN Joint programme on Wealth Creation for Poverty Reduction and in Zanzibar there is a process to prepare labour laws regulations to facilitate implementation of labour laws and to improve social dialogue. All these are implemented under the auspices of the "One UN". In this regard we wish to acknowledge the support from the UN system and the lead role provided by ILO in the joint assistance programme. Tanzania further encourages the mainstreaming of the decent work agenda in the UN system wide response to development and that it should be part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

Madam Chairperson,

The majority of Tanzanians like other African countries live in the rural areas, hence the development of the agriculture sector which employs around 80% of the population is essential if we are to curb poverty levels and improve full employment. Further the development of the agriculture sector has to include the empowerment of rural women, including through more secure land tenure, and their full participation in decision making on agriculture, rural development and resource management. In this regard we welcome the upcoming Windhoek High-Level meeting on African Agriculture in the 21st Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution.

To conclude Madam Chairperson,

I wish to recognize the role of the civil society and our development partners in complimenting efforts of the government in implementing the Copenhagen plan of Action. We, as an international community, have an obligation to ensure social inclusion for all so as to foster peace, security and development. In this regard I wish to urge for fulfillment of international commitments on ODA and debt forgiveness so as to release more funds for social services such as education, health, water etc. which we know have the potential to enhance social inclusion.

I thank you.