



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

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STATEMENT BY

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OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS DELIVERED DURING THE
MEETING OF THE 63RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

AGENDA ITEM 45: CULTURE OF PEACE

THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2008

Statement by Joyce Kafanabo Charge D"Affaires of the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Delivered During the Meeting of the 63rd General Assembly on Agenda Item 45 on Culture of Peace, 13th November, 2008 in New York.

Mr. President,

The delegation of Tanzania is pleased to participate in this important debate on the "promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace" under the agenda item on the culture of peace. This high level meeting has come at an opportune time where the rejection of intolerance and a profound aspiration to live in peace and security are becoming an increasingly salient feature of the society today.

We congratulate you and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for successful organizing this high level meeting. We believe that the outcome of this meeting will contribute to a better understanding as well as to a deepening dialogue among the cultures, religions and faiths. We thus all of us have an obligation to continue the momentum that will be generated through this meeting.

We also wish at this juncture to commend the work undertaken by UNESCO, the alliance of Civilization and the Tripartite forum on interfaith cooperation for peace, understanding and cooperation.

Mr. President,

The importance of intercultural and interreligious harmony can not be underscored in The United Republic of Tanzania; a country with diverse population. We have over 100 ethnic tribes and several religions which co-exist in harmony with full freedom to express their cultural and religious diversities . In Tanzania we have succeeded to have four peaceful transitions of presidency and the union of Tanzania mainland and the islands of Zanzibar which is now 44

years old has stood the test of time and is an exemplary unity. The government of Tanzania firmly believes in fostering a culture of peace for sustainable development and prosperity of all people. A culture of peace and the unity that we enjoy has not come by itself; it has been developed and nurtured. We consistently instill in our children and our people the values of tolerance and dialogue; we have further continued to impress upon them to refrain from the use of force and violence but to reason and respect each other, for we know the costs of conflicts are devastating.

Mr. President,

The freedom of religious belief, worship and practice is enshrined in our constitution. However we go beyond an expression and protection of one's rights to faith and worship, and encourage dialogue between various faith and religions that will help to develop the understanding of the faiths and religious beliefs of others and reduce the ignorance. Mutual understanding breeds respect for each. Ignorance is the seed of religious bigotry and intolerance and can be used by a few disillusioned people for sowing seeds of of misunderstanding and discord in the society.

The responsibility for instilling the culture of peace is not the responsibility of the government alone. It needs concerted efforts from all stakeholders such as the parliaments, civil society including religious and faith based organizations.

The Helsinki Process on Globalization and Democracy, which Finland and Tanzania co-chaired and its final report presented to the United Nations Secretary General in September 2008, by Presidents H.E. Tarja Halonen of Finland and H.E. Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania, underscored in their report that globalization had brought with it changes not only in world politics, but also diversity in people and cultures in many of our countries. In this regard, involvement of different stakeholders as well international collaboration and

cooperation is equally essential in meeting the objectives of the Decade for Culture for Peace.

Mr. President,

We are encouraged that one of the main goals of the Culture for Peace, is to ensure that the Charter of the United Nations is adhered to and enhances a creation of a culture where peace will prevail. Tanzania, as one of the peace champions in the African continent and beyond, will continue to support the Decade for the Culture of Peace, the Alliance of Civilizations, and the the tripartite forum for interfaith dialogue. We should endeavor to ensure that the United Nations continues to play a leading role in these initiatives.

I Thank you