

**STATEMENT BY HON. DR. MARY M. NAGU, MINISTER FOR
INDUSTRY, TRADE AND MARKETING OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MADE AT UNCTAD XII, HELD IN
ACCRA, GHANA, ON 20-25 APRIL, 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to speak at this important Conference whose main subject focuses on addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development.

I would like to first of all express on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf our sincere thanks to the Government and People of Ghana, for the generous hospitality extended to us, and for the excellent facilities availed to ensure successful deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

For the interest of time, I will refrain from repeating what has already been stated by other delegations, except for reemphasis. I will therefore confine myself to a few issues of trade for development.

Mr. Chairman, Tanzania acknowledges with deep appreciation the potential and invaluable contribution and potential of UNCTAD towards our national trade and development efforts. I am sure that this is shared by many other developing countries and regions, in particular the least-developed countries (LDCs). Our assessment is that, as an important component of the United Nations, UNCTAD has executed its noble

mandate and responsibilities diligently in response to pressing and increasing demand amid resource constraints.

Through its three pillars of constructive research and analysis, consensus building and technical cooperation, as well as its innovative approach and policy recommendations, UNCTAD continues to offer a sanctuary of hope pertaining to our strategic needs and concerns as we strive to transform into meaningful participants in global production and trade, and to cope with the challenges of a complex international environment.

International trade has two broad elements, namely export trade and import trade, which reflect the interdependence among countries. But a viable interdependence must secure significant benefits for all partners. In the case of developing countries which need to be integrated in the global economy, a development oriented international trade must be conducted on an appropriate balance in order to generate net income for poverty alleviation and decent life to the marginalized.

To achieve this fundamental objective, developing countries and LDCs should be allowed and supported to enhance their trading and developing opportunities so as to strengthen their export production and trade and in turn increase their export earnings as a conduit for growth and development. Unfortunately the reality on the ground is that we continue to suffer from weak supply capacity in production, infrastructure and utilities, and also tariff and non-tariff barriers in our existing and potential markets. For this reason, we are yearning for a successful conclusion of the negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda in the WTO for fair trade rules and pro-development attributes. A protracted delay is a painful experience for us.

Secondly, is the issue of commodities. When we struggle to increase our commodity production and exports, this does not translate into real gains as we confront barriers particularly non-tariff barriers and the bitter pill of declining prices due to oversupply in the international market. The situation, is made worse by the radical tariff liberalization which we have embraced in the context of structural adjustment and other conditionalities urged upon us. While we might be encouraged by the current commodity prices boom, this has not brought us sufficient comfort because of the uncertainty about its sustainability.

We therefore need a development oriented international development cooperation system that is responsive to the needs of developing countries and LDCs. Such a system should be able to develop and promote a more favourable country-specific internal and external environment for developing countries and LDCs, not only in matters related to trade and investment, but also in other development spheres including commodities, intellectual property rights, transfer of technology, promotion of south-south trade as well as north-south trade, The system should also be able to address new and emerging issues of globalization, energy including renewable source, climate change and migration.

Let me conclude by observing that UNCTAD is strategically positioned to effectively carry out its mandate as well as other development related issues. In light of this, Tanzania would like to make a strong appeal for adequate practical support to UNCTAD so that it may continue to serve its clients - the developing countries and LDCs. Such support should include the following specific needs:

- Strengthening both the financial and other resource capacity of UNCTAD Secretariat and its operations

- UNCTAD Secretariat should continue and expand its research and technical assistance work on the Doha Developing Agenda and on the multilateral trading and investment system.
- Maintenance of its three existing commissions
- To introduce a new commission devoted to the issue of globalization
- Expanding the mandate of UNCTAD to cover new and emerging issues

I thank you for your attention