



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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

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DEPARTMENT OF EUROPE AND AMERICAS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA
AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE: AGENDA ITEM 28: ADVANCEMENT OF
WOMEN
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Mr. Chairman,

Tanzania aligns itself with the statements delivered by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; Cameroon on behalf of the African Group and Malawi on behalf of SADC.

We commend the Secretary-General for his reports submitted under this agenda item and take note of the recommendations contained therein

Mr. Chairman,

Tanzania believes that equal opportunity for women and girls is a basic human right as well as a social and economic imperative. Where women are educated and empowered, economies are more productive and strong. Where women are fully represented, societies are more peaceful and stable.

When women are involved in conflict resolution, peace is more entrenched and sustainable. That is why my government has made gender equality and empowerment of women one of its priority agenda. Strong political commitment from the President himself and the entire government has ensured mainstreaming of gender equality objectives in all government policies and programmes, including national strategies for growth and poverty reduction.

Mr. Chairman,

Tanzania has taken appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women. We are now in the process of reforming all discriminatory legislation such as Marriage Act of 1971 and Inheritance Laws to make sure that they are amended to eliminate sex based discrimination. The Parliament has also passed the Child Act No. 21 which among others protects children less than 18 years of age from torture and degrading treatment.

In eradicating Female Genital Mutilation, Tanzania continues to implement and enforce existing legislations and punish perpetrators through the Penal Code on Sexual Offences which protects the dignity and integrity of women and children in matters pertaining to FGM and other harms subjected to women and children.

Mr. Chairman,

Another area of concern for Tanzania is the issue of maternal health. When a woman undertakes her biological role of becoming pregnant and undergoing childbirth, the society has an obligation to fulfill her basic human rights and that of her child. Yet for too many of the world's women – and especially those from poor women – it is a matter of chance whether they can reach a health care facility during pregnancy. Surviving childbirth should not be a matter of chance. It is a matter of women's basic right to health and life. Women have a right to get through pregnancy and childbirth safely.

Access and proximity to health centres with qualified and experienced midwives is still a serious impediment to maternal health. To ensure that women get access to health services and do not die from pregnancy complications, the Government has continued to expand coverage of Primary Health Facilities and strengthen provision of comprehensive and basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care equipment national wide. We are building a dispensary in every village and a health care centre in every ward. This program will be instrumental for women in the access of health services.

In the end, as we all know, the Government cannot do it alone. We wish to thank all those who have made commitments to achieve this noble goal. We also urge for concerted efforts and funding from the international community and private sector to realize this basic women's right to health and life.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion let me reiterate the commitment of the United Republic of Tanzania in promoting gender equality and advancement of women.

I thank you for your attention