



**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**STATEMENT BY MR. RAMADHANI M. KHIJJAH,  
PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF  
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, TANZANIA**

**AT THE 2009 ECOSOC COORDINATION SEGMENT  
"PANEL ON EFFECTIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIES: COUNTRY-LEVEL EXPERIENCE",**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 14 JULY, 2009**

---

**Check against Delivery**

**Mr. Moderator,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I feel very privileged and greatly honored to be invited to speak in this panel. I would like to thank the Council for organizing this panel, which I find to be very timely important.

**Mr. Moderator**

This panel discussion's Concept Note indicates that there has been encouraging progress in implementing **Sustainable Development Strategies (SDS)**. Sustainable development essentially requires creating linkage between economic management, social responsibility, and environmental preservation. For a number of reasons this linkage is often missing because of trade-offs between short-term and long-term interests. I believe that this forum accords us an opportunity to share our experience and, in so doing, come up with possible and pragmatic recommendations on measures that will need to be taken both at global and national-levels, to ensure global sustainable development.

**Mr. Moderator**

The global diplomacy for sustainable development dates back to year 1992 in Rio, where Heads of States and Governments reached a landmark agreement on the linkages between development and environment by adopting Agenda 21. Further processes resulted into more programmes and strategies such as: the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the adopted Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI); Strategies developed under the Barbados and Mauritius Declarations for Small Island Developing

States (SIDS); and the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). While these processes were on the right direction at those times, the unprecedented growing challenges of climate change, coupled with the recent global financial and economic crisis, compel the world to re-think in an expeditious manner, on collective innovative complementing approaches.

**Mr. Moderator**

In Tanzania the Sustainable Development agenda is embedded in the National Development Vision 2025 (DV 2025) and Zanzibar Development Vision 2020(ZDV 2020), which both aim at achieving: high quality livelihood; peace; stability and unity; good governance; a well educated and learning society; and a competitive economy capable of producing sustainable growth and shared benefits.

The economy of Tanzania derives its strength from agriculture, forestry, mining, fisheries, wildlife, tourism, water resources and other natural resources. The strength of the economy and the integrity of the environment are therefore related to the efficient use and management of the available natural resources. Mainstreaming environmental concern in our development initiative has remained an important challenge.

**Mr. Moderator**

After the Earth Summit in 1992, countries were obliged to prepare their respective National Environmental Action Plans. Tanzania prepared its National Action Plan in 1994. The National Action Plan has identified land degradation, water shortage and pollution, urban pollution, deterioration of Aquatic resources (marine and fresh water), loss of wildlife habitat, biodiversity and deforestation as major environmental issues of concern.



**Mr. Moderator**

To foster the implementation of the sustainable development agenda, the Government has formulated a number of policies and strategies. These are: National Environmental Policy (1997); National Water Policy (2002); National Science and Technology Policy for Tanzania (1996); Water Sector Development Strategy (2005); Strategy for Urgent Actions on Land Degradation and Water Catchments (2006); and the National Cleaner Technology Strategy (2006). These policies are aiming at providing guidance to stakeholders in these sectors to ensure that their activities are not affecting the environment.

**Mr. Moderator**

To ensure commitment to addressing environmental issues, the government enacted Environmental Management Act (EMA) in 2004. The EMA 2004 provides for a legal and institutional framework for sustainable management of the environment, prevention and control pollution, waste management, environmental quality standards, public participation, environmental compliance and enforcement.

The EMA entrusts the Vice-President's Office with the overall authority to coordinate and manage environment. Furthermore, the government has also established a National Environment Management Council (NEMC). The EMA gives NEMC mandates to undertake enforcement, compliance, review and monitoring of environmental impacts assessments, research, facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making, raise environmental awareness and collect and disseminate environment related data. EMA also confers responsibilities to different institutions including national advisory committees, sector Ministries and local government authorities. Under the EMA each local government authority is required to prepare and implement a Local Environment Management Action Plan.

**Mr. Moderator**

From our assessment of the implementing the national environmental policies and the management act, challenges still remain. These include, the need to increasing community based programme for managing natural resources that impact on livelihoods and growth, reducing vulnerability to environmental risks, collecting data for poverty and environment indicators, and producing environmental monitoring and evaluation reports.

**Mr. Moderator**

Other challenges include non-recognition of the linkage between the economic management, social responsibility and environmental preservation. Decisions which drive most of our economic activities are skewed in favour of short-term consideration at the cost of long term sustainability. This seems to be a global problem not unique to Tanzania only. Besides dealing with the short-term mindset as an issue, effective sustainable development strategies are also inhibited by the existence of absolute poverty. Reconciling poverty with needs for sustainability is one of the main challenges. As in the case of saving short-term against long-term interests, there is a need for global action against absolute poverty in addressing sustainable development.

**Mr. Moderator**

In 2007, the 1994 National Environmental Action plan was revised to address outstanding issues as well as to tackle the emerging challenges on environment and address the adverse impacts of climate change. The revised National Action Plan covers the period 2008-2012. The Action plan identifies the following priority actions to be implemented by the government in partnership with other stakeholders during that period:

- i. **Land Degradation:** Some of the key issues related to land management in Tanzania which need to be addressed include population pressure, bushfires, rangelands, agrochemical residues,

and desertification. The identified priority actions to address land degradation are the following:

- Use a coordinated and comprehensive land use/management plans;
  - Carry out "environmental mapping";
  - Carry out environmental impact assessment prior to carrying out development activities;
  - Promotion of improved approaches in land preparation for agriculture, grazing, beekeeping, and wildlife management;
  - Integrate existing information systems on land use;
  - Implement Strategy for Urgent Actions on Land Degradation and Water Catchments; and implement national plans under Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- ii. ***Water Shortage and Water Pollution:*** Major causes of water pollution are: industrial effluents; domestic waste waters; turbidity during the rainy season and bacteriological contamination in the case of rural areas; agricultural pollution; and air pollution. The identified priority actions are:
- Collection of water cycle data and enforcement of abstraction of water;
  - Prepare comprehensive plans for water resources development; watershed management; construct more sewerage systems; establish proper waste treatment and garbage disposal systems;
  - Amend/replace laws governing water pollution and Develop and/or strengthen by-laws;
  - Establish comprehensive monitoring of water use;
  - Provision of basic infrastructure for sewage management in unplanned settlements;
  - Promote cleaner production and wastewater reuse and recycling;
  - Provision of infrastructure for wastewater treatment;
  - Enforce environmental auditing; and



- Phasing out use of hazardous and toxic chemicals and their products to reduce further impacts to health and environment;

**iii. *Deterioration of aquatic resources: marine and freshwater:***

Threats to aquatic biodiversity emanating from human demographic pressures include:- environmental pollution; destructive fishing methods; trophy collection; insufficiently regulated and monitored coastal tourism; over-exploitation of aquatic resources; introduction of exotic species; erosion and silting due to overgrazing and deforestation; and loss of habitat due to developmental activities. The identified priority actions are to:

- Identify and promote the use of environmentally sound methods for the extraction of minerals especially in environmentally sensitive areas;
- Monitor aquatic ecosystems and enforce relevant by-laws;
- Develop and facilitate the use of ecosystem approach;
- Promote alternative income generating activities; and
- Establish participatory Fishery Management.

**iv. *Loss of Terrestrial Biodiversity (Wildlife Habitats):*** Threats to the

wildlife habitats and biodiversity include agricultural expansion, unplanned artisanal mining, development of infrastructure like roads without proper EIA, converting land to agricultural use, influx of refugees to certain areas of the country, overgrazing and excess logging for commercial purposes. The identified priority actions are:

- Update and implement the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action;
- Re-examine the entire protected area network in Tanzania;
- Promote international cooperation;
- Promote Capacity Building and awareness to relevant stakeholders;
- Implement measures to control deforestation, overgrazing and pollution;

- Up-scale Participatory Forest Management in all districts;
  - Enforce anti-poaching laws; and
  - Control pollution and land degradation resulting from tourism activities.
- v. **Deforestation:** The major causes of deforestation include: demand for more agricultural lands to feed the ever increasing population; increasing incidences of bush fires; increased commercial logging sometimes illegally; increased extraction of wood fuels; human settlements; illegal or poor mining practices; soil erosion due to overstocking (e.g. livestock grazing); degradation/depletion of water resources; and on-going poor agricultural practices such as shifting cultivation, lack of crop rotation practices, lack of agricultural technology. The identified priority actions are:
- Encourage sustainable regeneration of woodlands or private woodlots for major users of wood fuel ie tree planting;
  - Control activities of commercial charcoal burners and commercial wood fuel producers;
  - Establish energy conservation programme;
  - Implement the Strategy for Urgent Actions on Land degradation and Water Catchments of 2006;
  - Capitalize cultural and traditional methods/beliefs of certain tree species for the purposes of environmental conservation;
  - Promote alternative sources of energy;
  - Promote agro-forestry practices and Participatory Forestry Management; and
  - Discourage shifting cultivation.
- vi. **Urban Pollution:** Major sources are industries, motor transportation, poor management of both liquid and solid wastes, electric generators. Inadequate facilities for the treatment of solid waste and industrial



effluents contribute to serious pollution levels in ground and surface water sources. The identified priority actions are:

- Develop and implement enforceable by-laws for waste management;
- Establish emergency notification procedures to prevent public exposure to hazardous wastes;
- Develop environmentally sound waste collection, transfer, transport and disposal systems for urban areas;
- Prepare guidelines and standards for waste disposal sites;
- Develop and implement National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan;
- Promote sound management of chemicals and chemical products;
- Strengthen monitoring and control of imported chemicals;
- Establish mechanisms to control litter pollution;
- Establish appropriate penalties against industries that do not comply with set standards and regulations;
- Explore alternative low-cost methods of disposal of excreta;
- Implement the Africa Stockpiles Programme;
- Promote segregation and recycling of waste materials;
- Promote composting; implement existing programmes on upgrading of infrastructure for unplanned settlements;
- Develop and/or implement Strategic Urban Development Plans;
- Control the importation of used electrical, electronic and mechanical equipments;
- Encourage cleaner production technologies; and
- Upgrade urban slums and strengthen environmental planning and management.

## **vii. Climate Change**

In Tanzania, the impacts of global warming are already evident. Severe and recurrent droughts in the past few years caused all major dams used as main source of electrical power generation to surpass their lowest water level and were temporarily shut down. This triggered devastating power crisis in 2006. Soon after the prolonged drought, floods devastated the infrastructure almost all over the country, curtailing many economic activities, particularly agriculture and road infrastructure. About 60 billion shillings were used to address the problem. There have also been cases for intrusion of sea water into fresh water wells and the submerging of two small Islands due to sea level rise impacts.

Climate Change undermines national efforts to attain the MDGS and place poverty reduction efforts in jeopardy. As said, agriculture performance has been seriously affected by climate change. Actions are being taken for adopting cleaner and affordable energy technologies to ensure sustainable development. The impacts of climate change have been the driving force for the preparation of the Tanzania National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). This document has been prepared with the primary objective of identifying and promoting activities that address urgent and immediate needs for adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change. The focus of this work has been on adaptation needs in the agriculture, water, energy, health and forestry sectors.

## **Current Economic and Financial Crisis and NSDS**

### **Mr. Moderator**

Lastly, let me commend the initiatives taken to organize a United Nations Conference on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development from 24-26 June 2009 in New York. By doing so the UN has continued to demonstrate its convening power and the readiness to respond

to emerging global challenges. Tanzania and many other developing countries are now facing these challenges emanating from world economic and financial crisis. Already economic growth for 2009 in Tanzania is projected at 5% as opposed to 7.4% reached in 2008. These challenges include, lower demand and prices for primary commodities, which have remained the main income generating activities in these countries, less foreign direct investment, some planned investment have been called off, increased unemployment rates particularly in agro-industries and gemstone mining, decreased remittance, decrease income from tourism sector, likelihood of reduced ODA flows to less developed countries, and reduced government domestic revenue. All these effects constraint the efforts of the government to implement effectively the sustainable development strategy. Tanzania has taken measures to mitigate these impacts, particularly in agriculture sector, tourism and strengthening SMEs through its own resources and development partners' assistance. It is our belief that sustainable development is possible but given increased level of challenges, it will be difficult for individual countries to manage them. We need global coordinated actions to resolve them.

**I thank you for your attention**



