

ECOSOC Coordination Segment

7 July 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

*Summary of panel discussion on
“Implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the
Millennium declaration: perspectives and strategies”*

Chair: **H.E. Mr. Ali Hachani**, Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator: **Mr. John Hendra**, UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania

Panelists: **Ms. Joyce Mapunjo**, Commissioner for External Finance Department in the Ministry of Finance of Tanzania, **Mr. Cletus Mkai**, Director General, National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania, **Mr. Maxmillian M. Kajege**, Coordinator, Tanzania Coalition on Debt and Development, **Ms. Kathryn Hollifield**, Senior Country Officer for Tanzania and Uganda, World Bank

H.E. Amb. Hachani introduced the panel discussion. He highlighted that delegations will have the opportunity to hear the experience and perspectives of national stakeholders in Tanzania - national government and civil society representatives and the UN country team. The panel, he stressed, was intended to help the Council deepening its understanding of the challenges that governments and UN system organizations face at the country level in implementing the international development goals. This will give them also an opportunity to review strengths and weaknesses of the UN system in assisting the Government in their efforts to achieve the goals and reflect on further measures to strengthen the UN system support to national priorities for their implementation.

Presentations:

Ms. Mapunjo focused on the link between the national strategy for poverty eradication and growth (Mkukuta) and the MDGs. She pointed out that the Mkukuta was formulated before the MDGs and that Tanzania started working on their integration in 2000 (2000 PRS1). In 2002, Tanzania also formulated the Tanzania Assistance Strategy (TAS) to guide, deliver and effectively manage external resource and the PRS process. Several best practices can be learned from this experience in the area of government leadership, involvement of other stakeholders, integration of external resources into strategic expenditure framework, adequacy of disbursement, capacity building, public finance, transparency and independent monitoring of development cooperation. The PRS also laid down the foundation for the 2004 National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSRDP/MKUKUTA); enhanced transparency and accountability in public resources management; demonstrated the need to have a clear link between national policies and budgetary allocation; and provided an important platform for stakeholder consultations. The new strategy is focused on integrating the MDGs; enhancing coordination within existing national policies, strategies and initiatives; strengthening the Poverty Monitoring System at the central and local levels. A Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS) was designed to help aligning external assistance with the national development priorities under the MKUKUTA to translate the MDGs, Monterrey, Rome, Marrakech, and Paris commitments into actions at the country level according to the following principles: national ownership and government leadership; division of labor based on comparative advantage; delegated cooperation; use of national systems, processes and procedures; dialogue with a broad range of domestic and international stakeholders; move to general budget support; involvement of non-

state actors; technical assistance for sustainable capacity building; collective and mutual accountability for the effective use of resources.

The UN system role in this context is to support capacity building for: PRS monitoring, aid coordination, harmonization, alignment and results management. The JAS would facilitate coordination and division of labor, while the UN system, through the UNDAF would provide policy and technical advice, skills/knowledge transfer, provision and mobilization of resources, and help promoting partnership and consistency among development actors (including NGOs and civil society).¹

Mr. Mkai presented the Tanzanian common database system (TSED) use for systematizing, storing and analyzing performance indicators concerning the MDGs and other international development goals and facilitating their integration into the PRSP. The system is based in the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), is nationally owned and is the only database existing in the country. In this sense, it represents a successful partnership between the Government and its development partners. Tanzania, along with Malawi, is one of the two countries running TSED (www.tsed.org) as a pilot. Even though quality and accessibility of data is still limited, the system would help enhancing: a) access to data dispersed among various institutions for restricted use; b) statistical capacity and literacy; c) support to evidence-based advocacy. It has thus great potential to facilitate policy design and implementation and public policy monitoring and to improve social design. Data in the system are collected from line ministries, through surveys/censuses, and through special research conducted in various areas. TSED is at the very heart of poverty monitoring systems and most of the MDGs and targets are incorporated in the system. By monitoring goals and targets by region, it is able to show the distribution of the problem, trends and gaps and facilitate targeted interventions and better allocation of resources. The challenge is now to sensitize people to utilize the system and become regular customers.²

Mr. Kajege stressed the role of civil society in the development process. He highlighted that civil society organizations in Tanzania have been engaged in various policy processes, including the PRS in 2000 and the monitoring of its implementation along with that of the MDGs. Civil society has its own strategy to campaign for the MDGs. Monitoring achievements towards these goals has showed that macro gains do not yet trickle down to the poor. School drop out, for instance, still remains a big issue in Tanzania, along with malaria and water access. It is also not clear yet whether the government has put in place adequate policies to deal with HIV/AIDS and whether rural areas would benefit from them particularly in terms of access to drugs. He noted that when the MDGs were introduced there was no involvement of CSOs and the knowledge about them was very limited. The introduction of the PRS also did not include the MDGs. Currently, there are still gaps in government policies regarding the integration of the goals and there is a need to strengthen government commitment to equitable distribution. The UN system has an important role to play in building capacity of and funding CSOs to monitor the implementation of the MDGs and the PRS and advocate with the government. The UN system should continue bridging between the government and civil society.²

¹ Power point presentation available at:
<http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2005/cs2005/panels.shtml>

² Power point presentation available at:
<http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2005/cs2005/panels.shtml>

Mr. Hendra, emphasized the strong sense of national ownership characterizing the reform model adopted in Tanzania and the strong commitment to the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs. Political will and tangible results are visible especially for goal 2 (education), 3 (gender equality), 4 (infant mortality rate), and 7 (environment). The MDGs have been integrated into the national policy framework through two policy pillars: the MKUKUTA and the JAS. The 2005-2010 MKUKUTA builds on the MDGs and beyond. Tanzania has taken a very innovative approach to poverty reduction and development which is outcomes- rather sector-based. Its strategy is truly national. It involves not only the Government but also civil society, private sector, etc., supported by development partners. There are numerous areas of best practice in Tanzania from national ownership and leadership concerning the Rome and Paris Declaration, such as Independent Monitoring (IMG) carried out by an independent group; the Tanzania Assistance Strategy (TAS) as overall framework of coherent partnership principles; and several other best practices regarding the use of national systems. This has led to greater results and predictability and thus to a large increase in external assistance. The next challenge is improving aid coordination. The Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS), in light with the Rome and Paris Declarations on aid harmonization and alignment, is focused on strengthening national ownership and leadership; improving aid effectiveness on the basis of principles of national ownership; domestic and mutual accountability; government based systems for aid delivery; reduction in transaction costs; division of labor; and technical assistance policy and capacity building.

The UN, along with the World Bank and IMF, plays a key role in promoting the MDGs advocating and supporting their full integration into key policy frameworks, including the PRS, providing joint support, mobilizing various constituencies; addressing cross-cutting issues, supporting capacity development; and developing the initial communication strategy on PRS II. The challenges for the system are to: become more outcome-oriented in planning, costing and supporting the MDGs and monitoring their implementation; ensure joint analytical work and joint support to the review of the PRS and national poverty reduction plan; and align its work more effectively with national efforts, including through a greater engagement in the JAS.

The UNDAF should thus be aligned with the three outcomes of the new MKUKUTA. Currently, an independent joint strategic review of the UN support of the PRS and the poverty reduction plan is being conducted, including an assessment of the UN's comparative advantage. A new UNDAF results matrix is also being drafted and several joint programs formulated. Fundamental questions now are whether the UN is ready to: a) focus more on a policy advisory and capacity development role under the JAS; b) move away from many small project interventions and align with national processes; c) focus on direct budget support, SWAPs/Basket Funding and sign up together (as UN country team) to the new JAS; d) provide a flexible and demand-driven technical assistance as "One UN".

Ms. Kathryn Hollifield also stressed the strong leadership shown by the Government in coordinating donors and the development community at large in the country and in the implementation of the MDGs. The JAS embodies all commitments made in Paris and in other forums in terms of alignment with the second generation of MKUKUTA; modalities of support moving towards budget support; use of country systems as the knots and bolts of delivery. Tanzania also has a good framework for applying selectivity based on comparative advantage in its interventions. In this context, the World Bank is ready to use a multi-donor approach to support implementation and strategy formulation.

Dialogue with delegations:

Some delegations raised questions on the linkages between national and international statistics. Others wondered whether benchmarks and targets were homegrown, developed by the UN or other partners, or a combination of both. One speaker stressed the importance of using national statistical systems and data among development partners and wondered how Tanzania managed to have such a system as opposed to parallel ones. Other delegations wondered how monitoring is being carried out. On the issue of malaria, some delegations questioned about the validity of focusing on short term gains such as those generated by mosquito nets, as suggested by Jeffrey Sachs. Other delegations were interested in how coordination is carried out between the Government and UN system in Tanzania and whether such successful approach could be exported to neighboring regions and countries, as South-South cooperation. Participants also wondered about the role of civil society in the Tanzanian model/approach and its exportability in other countries, particularly those in conflict, and about the role of the private sector. On best practices, it was suggested to build on those emerged in Tanzania and disseminate them in other countries. One delegation asked whether the UN had already established a time table, process, funding instruments etc, to phase out project-based assistance and focus on a results-based approach.

Mr. Mkai stressed that Tanzania is now better positioned to present data and information to partner organizations at the regional, sub-regional and international levels and in publications (regional and sub-regional publications). He also highlighted that the elimination of parallel data collection is still in progress, but that it was agreed in the new PRS that data collection should feed into TSED and into policy formulation. Most sectoral ministries participate in technical groups in charge of harmonizing routine data and in those in charge to harmonize services as well. This has minimized parallel processes. On monitoring, he stressed that coordination among actors to monitor on poverty eradication is ensured through technical groups for research, analysis and technical assistance.

On national participation, **Ms. Mapunjo** stressed that JAS has promoted policy dialogue within the country. There is great reliance on national academics and political parties for the formulation of the PRS, while both private sector (mainly informal) and civil society are very vocal in expressing their views to the Government. Partnership is facilitated by common goals around poverty reduction and MDGs. Harmonization and alignment around national execution was another by-product of national participation. In Tanzania there is a very clear structure on how to consult and work with partners and for harmonization, particularly within the PRS. On indicators, Ms Mapunjo underscored that although national indicators should abide by international standards they should also be adapted to the national environment and be nationally owned. On national systems, she noted that a key objective of the JAS was that partners should respect aid modalities but also national systems and procedures, especially for procurement and technical assistance. On monitoring, she pointed out that it was an independent process with no involvement of the Presidency.

Mr. Kageje also stressed the level of national participation. Civil society organizations, in particular, function as a link between grassroots, including private sector, and the Government and ensure that their concerns are injected into the policy dialogue with the Government through independent monitoring mechanisms and processes. CSOs also participate in the PRS technical groups and their main role is to disseminate findings in appropriate language. On the issue of mosquito nets, he stressed that there is first a need to ensure that companies distributing them abide by WHO standards, although it would be faster to use nationally produced nets subsidized by the government.

On mosquito nets, **Mr. Hendra** stressed their importance to prevent malaria. Although government subsidies were important to facilitate distribution among the most vulnerable, he recognized that distribution very much relies on the private sector. On participation, he stressed that a major issue this year was the participation of the private sector in the PRS process. On coordination, he noted that relationships among donors in the JAS focused on the principles of the Paris and Rome Declarations. On the UN side, discussions are undergoing to rationalize UN work through the UNDAF results matrix and integrate it into the JAS. The challenge for the UN is to participate in the JAS as “One UN”.