



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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

**HON. MATHIAS MEINRAD CHIKAWA (MP)
MINISTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS AT
THE 67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK**

AT THE

**HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON THE RULE OF LAW AT THE
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

NEW YORK, 24 SEPTEMBER 2012

Your Excellency Vuk Jeremic, President of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly;

Your Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations;

Excellencies Heads of State and Government;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to congratulate you Mr. Vuk Jeremic on your well deserved election to preside over the 67th Session of the General Assembly. The United Republic of Tanzania would like to assure you full support and cooperation as you discharge your mandate. I am confident that your able leadership and vast experience will contribute to the anticipated success and serve as a guide in dealing with vital aspects of our rule of law efforts and initiatives. I also commend your predecessor, His Excellency Nassir Abdul-Aziz Al-Nasser for having successfully presided over the 66th Session.

Mr. President,

The United Republic of Tanzania welcomes the importance that the United Nations has placed on promoting the rule of law at all levels of governance. Let me first warmly commend the Secretary-General for initiating this timely pertinent High-level Meeting on the rule of law at the national and international levels, it is indeed relevant and important for the United Nations to discuss this topic in the General Assembly in support of the initiatives of the Sixth Committee.

Mr. President,

Tanzania is committed to upholding and promoting the rule of law nationally, regionally and internationally. At the national level, the rule of law is at the heart of the social contract between the state and individual. The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 has been our *magna carta* in providing guidance and measures to ensure the adherence to the rule of law. In this regard, the principles of equality before the law, accountability to the law and separation of powers are embodied in our Constitution. Realizing that the constitution emanates from the people and reflects what the people want, Tanzania is currently involved in a thorough all inclusive review of its constitution for purposes of developing a new constitution after the current one has served the country for the last fifty years.

The Constitution also provides for the establishment of national institutions with mandates to ensure that the rule of law is not only observed but also that citizens' rights are protected. One such institution is the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance which, over the years has and continues to do a commendable job.

Mr. President,

Adherence to the principles of protection and promotion of Human Rights, access to justice and equality, good governance and the rule of law in the country has also been

well captured in our county's Vision 2025 and National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty. Strengthening of our justice system has been one of the top priorities in our Five Years National Development Plan. In this regard, the Government has made deliberate efforts to increase the number of judges, magistrates, building new courts and renovating old ones. Modernization of the judiciary services by inter alia introducing tele justice is underway. The number of advocates in private practice has also steadily increased with the establishment of the Law School of Tanzania and thus making representation and access to justice in Tanzania a reality. The establishment of Case Flow Management Committees to speed up adjudication of civil and criminal cases is another measure designed to ensure availability of timely and speedy justice for all.

Tanzania is also committed to becoming a corruption free society. We have established the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB). The Bureau is mandated to prevent and combat corruption, educate the society on the effects of this menace and enforce the law against corruption.

Mr. President,

International law and the rule of law are the pillars of the international system. The rule of law at international level becomes manifest in treaties and customary international law as applied and interpreted by international courts and Ad Hoc Tribunals which have enriched and developed international law. It is an effective tool for addressing global challenges in promoting democracy, human rights, eradication of poverty, sustainable development, fighting international crimes, promoting justice and peace for all. The United Republic of Tanzania attaches great importance to the rule of law at the international level and adheres to the purposes and the principles of the UN Charter. Likewise we attach great importance to the need to reform the security council which is an important pillar of international peace and security which also hinges on international law. The governing structures of the United Nations must therefore give equal comfort to all its members.

Mr. President,

At the International level, Tanzania has ratified a number of multilateral treaties that provide extensive obligations to Member States to observe rule of law. Tanzania hosts the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption and the African Institute of International Law.

Tanzania is among African countries that voluntarily subscribed to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and has agreed to be reviewed on four thematic areas which are democracy and political governance, economic governance and management, corporate governance, as well as social economic development.

Mr. President,

Recently, Tanzania committed itself to joining the Open Government Partnership (OGP). This initiative aims at making Government business more open to its citizens. It also aims at improving public service delivery, public private partnerships, Government responsiveness, combating corruption and enhancing transparency and building greater trust. OGP also provides an opportunity for Tanzania to enhance and promote rule of law and good governance.

Success in the implementation of rule of law depends on how we are able to translate and transform this process into concrete action. We are mindful of the fact that this requires sustained effort and political will.

To this end, we are determined to engage the civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the process of implementing the proposed Programme of Action on the rule of law as required in the Resolution as well as our national action plan on the OGP.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

In conclusion, let me; once again reiterate my Government's commitment in spearheading these efforts at the national level and appeal for continued international cooperation in making possible *a just, fair, secure and peaceful world.*

I thank you for your kind attention.