

STATEMENT BY H.E. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE, PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, DURING THE  
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
NEW YORK, 20 SEPTEMBER, 2006

*Your Excellency Shaikha Haya Rushed Al Khalifa ,  
President of the General Assembly;*

*Your Excellency Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the  
United Nations;*

*Excellencies;*

*Distinguished Representatives;*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Permit me to begin by congratulating you, Madam President, on your well deserved election to the Presidency of the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly. This is an important milestone on the gender agenda at the United Nations. I wish you

great success and assure you of Tanzania's full support and cooperation as you discharge your duties.

I should also like to commend your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, for his able stewardship of the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. Under his leadership, Tanzania was privileged to Co-chair with Denmark negotiations leading to the operationalization of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Case for Continuity

*Madam President;*

*Excellencies.*

I stand before you as the fourth President of my dear country, Tanzania, following another successful multiparty democratic election last December. This is the third smooth transition of power in Tanzania. I

took over from my eminent predecessor in office, H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa who has remained active both at home and abroad. He remains my useful and wise counsel as does his predecessor His Excellency Ali Hassan Mwinyi. Among the many good things that former President Mkapa continues to discharge for our country and the human family is his membership of the Secretary-General's High Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence which is an important task in our agenda for the reform of the United Nations.

Such was the success of the previous administration that I can only come before you with one central message—a message of policy continuity nationally, regionally and internationally.

We will continue with the efforts of the previous administration to promote peace, stability and national unity. In addition we shall redouble our efforts to uphold and strengthen good democratic governance, respect for human rights and rule of law as well as intensify the fight against corruption. We feel greatly honoured in this regard that, the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption decided to hold their second global conference in Arusha, Tanzania in two days time in recognition and in support of our efforts.

*Madam President,*

Tanzania also made impressive economic strides making it one of the fastest growing economies in Africa. My intention is to sustain and enhance that record with greater zeal, vigour and speed.

Similarly, Tanzania has emerged as one of the best practice cases in terms of ownership of the development agenda and the harmonization and coordination of development assistance. This is a policy and practice I will advance during my tenure in the hope that it will add to the realization of the theme of this General Assembly — Implementing a Global Partnership for Development.

Madam President;

In view of this record, and given our political and macro-economic stability and political will, Tanzania is now well poised to accelerate the pace towards the attainment of Millennium Development Goals.

For this to happen however, we need international support to scale-up on our infrastructure, capacity for value addition processes and human capital development. Fortunately, the

framework for such international support already exists, for example through the Monterrey Consensus and the Helsinki Process. I believe Tanzania has lived up to her commitment under the global compact for development. I now call upon our development partners to do likewise.

Cognizant of the role of the private sector as the engine of growth, Tanzania has implemented far-reaching policy and institutional reforms geared to creating a conducive environment for business.

The World Bank's "2007 Doing Business Report" recognizes Tanzania as one of the ten best reforming countries in the world. Therefore Tanzania has again fulfilled her commitments under the Global Compact. We, therefore, call upon our development partners to augment our efforts, and the private sector to respond positively.

## The Great Lakes Region of Africa

*Madam President,*

The success of whatever we try to do nationally depends critically on a peaceful neighbourhood. For too long Tanzania has suffered the consequences of conflict and instability in the region, including hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees, destruction of infrastructure and environment and the time and resources deployed in facilitating conflict resolution.

For this reason, Tanzania will continue to play its part in the quest for peace, security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region.

Significant progress has been achieved in the political and security situation in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. We appreciate the support of the

United Nations and other partners in the regional peace process. Tanzania welcomes and commends the government of Burundi and the FNL for finally signing the ceasefire agreement. We are humbled that we were able to play a role.

Likewise, I commend the Government, the major political actors, as well as the people of Democratic Republic of Congo for holding the long-awaited elections. We urge that the forthcoming second round of elections be conducted in a free, fair and peaceful manner. Tanzania as Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security will play its role in support of this process. As a friendly neighbour we will endeavour to be as useful as is necessary

Moreover, Tanzania as current chair of the initiative for peace and security in the Great Lakes

Region will work closely with other member countries to ensure a successful Second International Conference on the Great Lakes region later this year in Nairobi.

I wish to put on record our sincere gratitude to the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes for their support. I appeal to them and the international community to remain engaged with this process.

Peace and Security Trends Elsewhere in Africa

*Madam President,*

Peace seems to have eluded the world. Reports of wars and violent conflicts are head line news in international media. Unfortunately Africa, the poorest of the continents has had an unfair shame of conflict. Like other delegates, we express our concern for the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur,

and call for continued regional and international community's engagement. Likewise, we are deeply concerned about the situation in Somalia and elsewhere, Cote d' Ivore and in the continent.

The continuing impasse on Western Sahara, is unfortunate. After 31 long years it is high time that the UN redoubled its efforts towards resolving this issue. The UN resolved the question of East Timor, which was similar to that of Saharawi. The people of Western Sahara deserve no less from us. I believe it can be done if all parties played their part appropriately.

The Middle East

*Madam President,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

Turning to the situation in the Middle East, I am pleased to see the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon holding and troop contributing countries responding positively in reinforcing the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The 34-day war in Lebanon took international attention away from the plight of the Palestinian people. The lack of progress towards a negotiated two-state solution and the decline in confidence in the peace process are worrying developments. We call upon the Quartet, and encourage bilateral and other multilateral initiatives, to revive the peace process laid down in the Road Map. A just, viable,, lasting

and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can only come through negotiations.

Terrorism

*Madam President,*

Tanzania welcomes and applauds the adoption by the General Assembly of a Comprehensive Global Strategy to Counter Terrorism.

It is our expectation that the differences which arose during the negotiations will not stand in the way of the strategy's implementation.

After experiencing a major terrorist attack on our soil in 1998, Tanzania has always repeated our resolve to cooperate with others to combat terrorism in all its manifestations. The threat of terrorism is global and complex; it demands a collective and adaptive strategy to contain it.

## Multilateralism and UN Reform

*Madam President,*

*Excellencies:*

Tanzania has always stood for the sovereign equality of nations and for the primacy of multilateralism in global governance and in addressing global issues. We have always cherished and stood for the central role of the United Nations in global affairs. We promise to continue to be faithful and responsible members of the UN. It is our intention to participate more actively in UN peace keeping missions new and operations.

We have always believed that the United Nations of today has to reflect, in its structure, policies, programmes and activities, the realities of the world of today. The UN has to move with the changing

times and aspirations of its membership. I want to reaffirm Tanzania's continued commitment to these urgent and legitimate demands. We are very much committed to the reform agenda especially the reform of the UN Security Council to make it more representative and more responsive to the changing realities.

*Madam President,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

Tanzania's term as a non permanent member of the the United Nations Security Council will end In the next three months. Let me thank you all for the honour accorded to my country to serve on the Council. In this important organ of the United Nations.

We thank our fellow members of the Council for their cooperation and support during our term. As we leave, we are gratified that we were able to organize a special session of the council to discuss the situation in the Great Lakes region where useful conclusions were made.

Again as we leave I would like to pay tribute to our outgoing illustrious Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, a great internationalist and statesman. We congratulate him for a job well done and for his able leadership during a particularly difficult period for the world and the United Nations.

He will be remembered as one who challenged the Organization to live up to the true promise of multilateralism, in delivering collective security, pursuit of fundamental human rights and promoting human development.

*Madam President;*  
*Excellencies.*

I thank you for your kind attention..