



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

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STATEMENT BY

**HON. MARGARETH SIMWANZA SITTA, MINISTER FOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENDER AND CHILDREN
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008

**201 East 42nd Street, Room 1700, New York, New York 10017
Tel. No. (212) 972-9160**

**STATEMENT BY HON. MARGARETH SIMWANZA SITTA, THE MINISTER FOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENDER AND CHILDREN OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN.
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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like at the onset to join previous speakers in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. I wish to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support during the deliberations of this session.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by His Excellency Jacqui Quinn- Leandro, the Minister of Labour, Public Administration and Empowerment of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We also align ourselves with the statement made by Honourable Patricia Mulasikwanda, the Minister for Gender and Development of Zambia on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Mr. Chairman,

Gender equality and the empowerment of women are central to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals. We note with concern the profound costs to developing countries if the Millennium Development Goal Three; "Promote gender equality and empower women", is not reached. Concerted efforts and in particular increased resources are needed to achieve the commitments of gender equality and empowerment of women that we have set for ourselves. Policy coherence between macro-economic policies and gender equality goals is thus vital. In this regard we welcome the upcoming follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. We urge for the effective participation of women at the negotiating table to ensure that women's concerns and needs are taken into account.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Republic of Tanzania attaches great importance to the contribution of women in economic development and eradication of poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated labour. In this regard, several measures have been taken, including the formulation of the National Empowerment Policy of 2006, to support economic empowerment of women and men. Women are encouraged to form productive economic groups and to join savings and credit cooperatives. In addition, credit schemes that support women entrepreneurs are in place and several training programmes for women entrepreneurs have been undertaken. Currently, Tanzania is in the process of establishing a Women's Bank; and in recognition of the unpaid labour undertaken by women, a Time Use Model that provides gender disaggregated data on unpaid work, which can then be used to guide policy decisions has been developed.

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Through the Public Finance Reforms and the Gender Budget Initiative, gender has been institutionalized in the country's budget and planning processes through its incorporation in the plan and budget guidelines. The guidelines call for government sectors to budget for gender mainstreaming and strengthening of gender focal points. In addition, a checklist on gender budgeting, to assist budget officers has been developed. Public Expenditure Reviews provide opportunities to monitor the progress in financing for gender equality. The PER process involves various stakeholders from the government and the civil society. A budget tracking that also involves the civil society has been incorporated as part of poverty monitoring. Furthermore, the gender macro working group that comprises of gender experts from the government, civil society and development partners provide further inputs into gender mainstreaming in the planning and budgeting process.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Republic of Tanzania recognizes the critical role that the Gender ministries, women parliamentarian caucus, gender focal points and women organizations, play in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. While the gender Ministries and focal points are financed through the regular budget, and that gender is treated as a cross-cutting issue in the poverty reduction strategy to ensure financing of gender activities, the funds provided have not been adequate due to the limited resources. While we recognize that the government has the primary responsibility, we wish to underscore the importance of international cooperation in this endeavour.

At this juncture we wish to acknowledge the contribution of the development partners and the civil society in the mainstreaming of gender in the budget and planning processes.

Mr. Chairman,

Violence against women is a barrier to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Violence against women is a scourge in our societies and has to be stopped. In Tanzania laws and regulations are being reviewed to provide better legal framework to combat gender based violence and child abuse. We commend the Secretary-General for his leadership and commitment to end violence against women. We assure the Secretary General of our country's support in his campaign to end violence against women.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. My government is ready to work with the international community in this endeavor.

I thank you.