STATEMENT BY

MRS. MAURA W. MWINGIRA, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS EXECUTIVE BOARD, UNDER AGENDA ITEMS 1, 2 AND 3

NEW YORK, 27 JANUARY 2014
Mr. President,

It is a great pleasure to see you preside over our deliberations. Tanzania is honoured to serve in the Bureau of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board under your able stewardship.

At the outset, we wish to associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We welcome the statement delivered by Madam Helen Clark, the UNDP Administrator this morning, which touched upon important issue currently under consideration within and outside the United Nations, namely, the post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are optimistic to achieve a brighter future for the entire humanity as encapsulated in the outcome of the Rio + 20 Conference, entitled "the future we want". It is encouraging to note, that the UNDP is positioning itself to deal with the challenges of the future. This will require dedication, resources and above all our collective support.

That said; my delegation cannot underscore enough, the importance of accelerating progress in achieving the MDGs for the remaining period. The UNDP is doing a
commendable job in assisting more than 50 countries, 24 of which are in Africa, including Tanzania, to address disparities and inequalities, which are the major causes of uneven progress in achieving the MDGs. It is in this regard we are mindful that the attainment of Tanzania’s MDGs Accelerated Action Plan focusing on MDG 1 (Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger) can have a catalytic impact on other goals, especially the health-related goals.

Eradication of poverty, reduction of inequalities and exclusion are issues that require our urgent and continued focus. Despite considerable gains in global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, one billion people are still trapped in poverty. My delegation is pleased to note that, poverty eradication is at the core of UNDP’s focus during the current strategic plan. This priority in the context of the UNDP Global Programme 2014-2017 is very welcomed.

Inequalities are also widening within and between countries, while social exclusion is causing and fuelling instability in some societies. We believe that gender equality and women empowerment is among the ways of overcoming such inequalities. We are thus glad that this matter has received befitting attention in the Strategic Plan as well as the Global Programme document to be approved in the current session.

It will be remiss of me if I did not recognize the regional programme document for Africa. Its content is a clear testimony of UNDP’s enduring partnership with African Member States and regional bodies, including the African Union Commission (AUC) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Africa has seen so many opportunities in the last decade but it has also faced enormous challenges, some of which are
imparing its ability to further advance human development. But the continent is taking up these challenges head on, with greater determination to realize the African Union’s vision of “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena”. We are confident that, the UNDP and the entire United Nations Development System will be Africa’s reliable partner in realizing Africa’s Agenda 2063.

We wish to underscore the importance of UNDP to take into account the guidance provided by the General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) as well as the mandates deriving from outcomes of major international conferences such as the Rio + 20 Conference, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs): 2011-20 and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

We also wish to reiterate the principle of national ownership and leadership, whereby operational activities are carried out for the benefit of the programme countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development. We will also seek to ensure that more resources are deployed toward operational activities in support of programme countries.

Let me conclude by wishing all of us every success in our deliberations.