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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR RAMADHANI M. MWINYI,

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

BEFORE THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON AGENDA ITEM 27: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. NEW YORK

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 8, 2013

201 East 42nd Street, Room 425, New York NY 10017
Tel. No. 212-697-3612 | Fax. No. 212-697-3618
Mr. Chairman,

Like other delegations, we too would like to congratulate you and members of the bureau on your well-deserved election. My delegation is certain that under your able leadership this meeting will be guided to a successful conclusion. We guarantee you of our full support and cooperation.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Lesotho on behalf of SADC.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has continued to implement the Copenhagen Plan of Action through various national programmes, in particular through National Strategies for Growth and Poverty Reduction for Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

Mr. Chairman,

Rural development and agricultural productivity are fundamental to social development, to poverty reduction and to meeting MDGs in countries such as mine. Given that the majority of the people in Tanzania live in rural areas, the development of the agricultural sector is absolutely essential if we are to provide full employment and curb poverty.

That is why the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has developed a programme known as “Kilimo Kwanza” literally translated as “Agriculture First”, which aims at modernizing and improving production and productivity in this sector. It seeks to address in a comprehensive way all the major constraints to increased production and productivity, to the agricultural value chain, and to agricultural marketing. Additionally, it is also a multi-stakeholder initiative involving government at all levels, civil society, farmer organizations and the private sector.

Mr. Chairman,

Older people are a resource in the development of any nation. In Tanzania we have a significant number of older people. 2012 Census showed that 2.3 million (5.7%) out of 44.9 million of Tanzania population are older people whereby 80 percent lives in rural areas. 73% of them are economically active with most of them engage in small scale agriculture.
The Government is committed to make sure that older people are recognized and equally provided with opportunities for better lives. The Government has put in place social protection policies that aim to reduce poverty among disadvantaged groups including older persons. These include: the National Ageing Policy of 2003 that guides provision of services to older persons and encourage their participation in the daily life of their communities; the 2003 Social Security Policy; National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty for Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar provides adequate social protection and rights to the vulnerable needy groups and has an operational target which aims to increase social pension coverage to proportion of older people.

The Government has also created free health service plan for older people. It has put in place a mechanism for promotion of health to the older people. Recently, the Government has created a unit that coordinates all health issues related to older people. The unit works to ensure that all health facilities are creating departments responsible to oversee provision of quality health service to the older persons. We currently have special rooms and doctors who attend older persons in a number of our public health facilities. Our policy also ensures preferential treatments are offered to older people.

On economic empowerment, a number of pilot programs are in place to test cash transfer as a starting point for building social and economic capital to older people households. The Government also operates 17 elderly homes and coordinates 24 homes run by private sectors for those who cannot do for themselves.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Republic of Tanzania believes that the links between poverty and disability are strong and that special efforts have to be made to assist persons with disabilities. We have just concluded the high level meeting on Disability and Development; we hope that the ongoing processes towards the post-2015 development agenda could ensure that persons with disability are included in the agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to achieve inclusive development, social development policies should address the root causes of poverty, inequality and social exclusion, rather than the social consequences of economic or political processes. Inequality, social inclusion, empowerment and participation, full and social protection should be given priority in the global development agenda beyond 2015.

In closing, I wish to once again reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to social and inclusive development. We have done our part but we still have many challenges ahead of us. We continue to urge for international cooperation, collaboration and solidarity in improving the lives and well-being of all persons.

I thank you.