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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

H.E. TUVAKO N. MANONGI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

BEFORE THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE
68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AGENDA ITEM 28: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 16, 2013
Chairperson,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania recognizes the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality as a matter of human rights and a condition to social justice and economic development. Where women are educated and empowered, they become leaders and agents of change for economic growth, social progress and sustainable development. It also recognizes that violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights and has devastating effects on individuals, communities and societies, and bears significant economic and social costs for national development.

It is for these reasons that there is a strong political commitment ensuring the mainstreaming of gender equality and ending gender based violence objectives in all government policies and programmes, including national strategies for growth and poverty reduction for Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

**Economic Empowerment**

Tanzania has taken measures to ensure that women are economically empowered. Policies and strategies that impact on economic empowerment of women include: the National Strategy for Growth and poverty Reduction, Sustainable Industrial Development Policy (1996-2020), Trade Development Policy, Agricultural, Marketing Development Policy, Export Development Strategy, and Small and Medium Enterprises Development policy.

The Government has continued to allocate funds for the programmes and projects which aim at empowering women economically. For example, Credit to women has been provided through the Women Development Fund (WDF). One of the credit lines established by the Government is the National Economic Empowerment Fund which aims at facilitating access to credit by micro and small entrepreneurs countrywide. In Zanzibar, women have been mobilized to take advantage of the Karume and Kikwete (KK Funds).

In addition, Credit facilities established by NGOs and Government have continued to provide credit to women and have spread throughout the country. Credit for Women in Tanzania (CREW (T)) provides credit to women especially those in rural areas. These
funds are committed to mobilize women to take an entrepreneurial approach on credit received. The funds benefit over 3533 women.

The Government has promoted rural micro financial services in the form of community based savings and credit schemes, such as the Savings and Credit Associations (SACAS) and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs). These have been established throughout the country. A Women’s Bank was established with the aim of providing soft loans to women entrepreneurs. It also provides entrepreneurship skills to women by partnering with other internal and external organizations. It has provided concessional loans to 13,000 entrepreneurs. 83% of whose beneficiaries were women.

**Decision Making and Political Participation**

The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania establishes structures that encourage the participation of women in decision making processes and in political activities. For instance, Women Members of Parliament may not be less than 30 percent. Currently, Women Ministers have increased from 4 equivalent to 15 percent in 2004 to 8 which is equivalent to 27.5 percent in 2010. The number of women Parliamentarians has increased from 62 in 2004 to 124 in 2010. Likewise, in the Zanzibar House of Representatives, the ration of women is 30 per cent. We have embarked on a broader national consultative process for the review of our current Constitution and women are adequately represented in the Review Commission and their voices are being heard.

**Violence against Women**

Chairperson,
Various measures have been taken to eliminate and prevent violence against women and girls. The Government has reviewed and amended discriminatory legislations; and enacted new laws for the elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls. Tanzania has also, ratified and domesticated a number of major international instruments that promote gender equality and human rights.

Violence against women and girls has been mainstreamed in the National Poverty Eradication Strategies where it is identified as one of its indicators of poverty. The National Plan of Action for Elimination and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children (2001-2015) and National Plan of Action for Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (2001-2015) have also been developed in that regard.

A Multi-sectoral Strategy and Action Plan for Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence in Zanzibar have been developed while in the Mainland a National Multi-sectoral Committee on Violence against women, children and albinos has been established. The Government has also established Tanzania Police Female Network (TPFNet) within the police force with the aim to equip the Tanzanian police with necessary information and other tools to assist them in dealing with alleged victims of
Gender Based Violence. A dedicated desk for women has also been established in some of the Police Stations.

**Maternal and Reproductive Health**

**Chairperson,**

Another area of concern for my government is the issue of maternal health. When a woman undertakes her biological role of becoming pregnant and undergoing childbirth, the society has obligation to fulfill her basic human rights and that of her child. Yet for too many of women in the world – and especially poor women – it is a matter of chance whether they can access health care facilities during pregnancy and it is even more difficult at childbirth. Surviving childbirth should not be a matter of chance. It is a matter of women’s basic right to health and life. Women have a right to get through pregnancy and childbirth safely.

Lack of access and proximity to health centres with qualified and experienced midwives is still a serious impediment to maternal health. To ensure that women get access to health services and do not die from pregnancy complications, the Government has continued to expand coverage of Primary Health Facilities and strengthen the provision of comprehensive and basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care equipment national wide. We wish to thank our partners who have supported us in this regard. We further urge for concerted efforts and funding from the international community to realize this basic right to health and life.

**Chairperson,**

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has made progress in mainstreaming gender policies, strategies, programmes and plans. There however still remains a number of challenges in translating policy into practice. These include capacity building on gender analysis and insufficient gender disaggregated data to influence policy and planning. Despite these constraints, the foundation has been laid and there is commitment and determination to advance this cause.

**Chairperson,**

In closing, I wish to point out that these are some of the measures that have made Tanzania to be on target in the achievement of the MDG3 on Gender and Equality and Empowerment of Women. I therefore wish to once again reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to the empowerment of women and achievement of gender equality. We call upon the international community to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals take into account the empowerment of rural women.

I thank You.