STATEMENT BY

HON. DR. PINDI HAZARA GHANA (MP),
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
GENDER AND CHILDREN OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

TO THE

69TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON AGENDA ITEM 62 (a) and (b): “THE NEW PARTNERSHIP
FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS IN
IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT;
CAUSES OF CONFLICT AND THE PROMOTION OF
DURABLE PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA”; and ITEM 12: “THE DECADE
TO ROLL BACK MALARIA IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA”

NEW YORK, 17th OCTOBER 2014
Mr. President,

I have the honour to participate in this joint debate of the General Assembly, which coincides with the culmination of the Africa NEPAD week 2014.

It is a great delight to see you presiding over this important agenda item for Africa, which blends seamlessly with the theme you have designated for this General Assembly session, namely “Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda”.

Africa is an important partner in the fulfilment of this important global development agenda, and as alluded by the Chair of the African Group, the distinguished Ambassador of Malawi in his statement delivered on behalf of the African Group, which Tanzania fully subscribes to, Africa is ready to engage in the formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the agenda items under consideration today and for his stewardship and commitment to keep Africa on the agenda of all United Nations activities. We also commend Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Agency, and the entire NEPAD secretariat for their continued good work in implementing the NEPAD programmes on behalf of the African Union. Our tribute also goes to OSAA, UNECA, the AfDB and other regional and international partners who are supporting the implementation of the NEPAD’s agenda.

Mr. President,

This joint debate takes place at a very critical juncture, when the world braces itself for the decisive intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to commence early next year. That momentous process will follow the fulfilment of the Rio + 20 mandates, including the
work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which delivered a salutary set of goals and targets to be integrated into the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We note with great satisfaction that, the proposal took into account most of Africa’s development aspirations encapsulated in the Common African Position (CAP) on Post-2015 Development Agenda. This gives us hope that, Africa will have full ownership of the Goals once adopted in September next year.

We are confident that proposals from other Rio + 20 follow-up processes, including the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), which met for the first time under the auspices of the ECOSOC in June 2014, and the International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015 will contribute towards a transformative post-2015 development agenda, which meets the aspirations of both developing and developed countries.

Of paramount importance for Tanzania and Africa is the eradication of poverty in all forms. Poverty is a chronic challenge, which could not be surmounted in the era of MDGs. It is imperative therefore, that the post-2015 addresses the unfinished business of the MDGs, on the aspect of poverty and hunger, maternal and child health, eradication of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and ensuring a strengthened global partnership for development.

Tanzania would like to underscore the importance of means of implementation, a prerequisite for the attainment of sustainable development. Our countries have resolved to enhance mobilization of domestic resources. However, we are fully aware that these resources in themselves are insufficient to meet the development needs of our countries and continent. It is in this regard we shall continue to call of development partners to fulfil their promises and commitments made to Africa in different fora, in terms of financing, trade, capacity building and most critically, technology transfer.
Tanzania awaits in anticipation, the conclusion of discussions on the establishment of a mechanism for transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries. I can only underscore at this juncture that this must be a part and parcel of the Post-2015 Development Agenda as envisaged in the "Future We Want".

Mr. President,

NEPAD is Africa’s pride! Over the years since its adoption, it has progressively contributed to the realization of Africa’s vision and strategic framework for political and socioeconomic transformation, on priority areas, including agriculture and food security, regional integration and infrastructure, climate change and natural resource management, and political and economic governance. We are confident that NEPAD’s agenda will continue to align itself fully with Africa’s development aspiration in the post-2015 development agenda, as inspired by Africa’s 2063 Agenda.

Last year we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). This year we have celebrated Africa’s Year of Agriculture and food nutrition, with the adoption in June 2014 of Malabo Declaration on Accelerating Agricultural Growth and Transformation for shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The declaration has re-enacted the CAADP agenda for the next decade.

The Tanzanian Government is already implementing the transformative actions encapsulated in the declaration, including of increasing investment in agriculture, through Domestic Resource Mobilization and enhanced partnership, as well as the promotion of Climate-Smart Agriculture. Since signing the CAADP Compact in July 2010, the Government has launched the Tanzania Food Security Investment Plan (TAFSIP), a 15-year investment plan, whose ultimate objective is to contribute to national economic growth, household income and food security, in line with national and sectoral development aspirations. National programmes such as the Southern Agriculture
Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) and the Kilimo Kwanza resolution, are truly transforming Tanzania’s agriculture sector. We can only underscore here the importance of national leadership and ownership in realizing these important development aspirations for our people.

Infrastructure is also an important sector for Tanzania’s and Africa’s realization of sustainable development aspiration and regional integration. We commend the NEPAD Agency for the steady implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), undertaken with limited available resources. We note that sustainable infrastructure development will require mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including the private sector. We welcome the Dakar Agenda for Action adopted in June 2014, for financing the 16 pilot infrastructure projects in Africa, including in our sub-region of Eastern Africa. We call upon development partners to support Africa’s endeavour this regard.

Tanzania is fully committed to NEPAD’s African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), whose main objective is to promote good governance across the continent. The APRM process has been a useful tool for building capacity on monitoring governance, developing partnerships and enhancing advocacy for efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in leadership. We note the constraints facing the APRM process, which are affecting the optimal fulfilment of its mandate. We commend the African Peer Review Panel of Eminent Persons under the leadership of H.E. Ms. Fatuma Ndangiza for steering the work of the mechanism. Tanzania is among the 17 countries that have already undergone the peer review process. We are currently consolidating the gains registered in the area of governance, which have characterized our nation since its independence.

We are currently undertaking constitutional reform, with the ultimate objective of enacting a new constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, which will guide our people into a secure and prosperous future. The Constitution process has reached a decisive stage, whereby the
Constitutional Assembly has adopted a draft constitution. The next critical stage is a referendum which shall avail the citizenry an opportunity to determine the status of the said Constitution.

It has been stated before in this very chamber that “African has solutions, for the African challenges”. If I may add, our respective States also have solutions to our national challenges. Doors are always open for well-wishers, who continue to render a helping hand to Africa and our respective countries in tackling a multitude of challenges facing us.

Mr. President,

In the last ten years we have registered some successes in the fight against malaria. More than 1 million lives have been saved, there have been more than a quarter mortality reduction globally, and a third in Africa through the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders.

In Tanzania we have succeeded to reduce prevalence of malaria in young children by 44 percent between 2008 and May 2012. In Zanzibar death due to malaria is near zero. For Tanzania mainland different interventions are being undertaken, including residual spraying on malaria breeding sites; availability of long term insecticide treated nets at every bed site; early treatment for those infected with malaria and control and surveillance to prevent reemergence and epidemics. Similar success stories can be found in other African countries.

Mr. President,

While these interventions produce dramatic declines in infection, morbidity, and mortality, the declines are not sufficient to interrupt transmission. Malaria is still a global threat,
affecting 99 countries globally and contributing to 655,000 deaths per year. Malaria kills a child in Africa every minute. The African region accounts for 81% of malaria cases occurring worldwide; 90% of malaria deaths occur in the region with 86% being children below five years of age.

It is for this reason that the current strategies alone are unlikely to achieve the goal of elimination and are also at risk of diminishing efficacy due to the development of drug resistance and insecticide resistance on the part of parasites and Anopheles mosquitoes respectively.

Mr. President,

On the other hand, the government has embarked on an expensive comprehensive program to deal with the question of access to healthcare. The program will ensure that there is a dispensary in every village and a healthcare centre in every ward. This program will certainly be instrumental in the success of our anti-malaria effort as it will guarantee prompt diagnosis and prompt treatment. It is in this endeavor that we need partnerships and support from the international community. We thank our bilateral and multilateral partners who have provided us with financial and technical support. We call for their continued support to complement the government's efforts in implementing the malaria strategy and eradicate malaria in Tanzania.

Mr. President,

It would remiss on my part if I conclude without saying a word regarding the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, which has struck yet another blow to our economies and people. Ebola is multiplying faster than our collective interventions to prevent and ultimately
eradicate it. The outbreak has exposed the fragility of the health systems and the capacity of our countries to respond to deadly outbreaks. We commend you Mr. President and the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the entire UN System, as well as Member States and regional organizations for responding swiftly in mobilization political will and resources. Our interventions in the short and medium term must be to save lives of those affected, preventing the spread of the disease, eliminating it from the face of the earth. Our long term goal must be to address the structural handicaps and institutional weaknesses characterizing the health sector in developing countries, especially in Africa.

I thank you for your kind attention.