

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM**

**AT THE LAUNCH OF THE EAST AFRICAN
SCENARIOS STORIES AND RESEARCH
COMPENDIUM**

AT NEW AFRICA HOTEL, DAR ES SALAAM

14 MAY 2008

Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, Secretary General of the East African Community and Vice President of SID International;

Mr. Reginald Mengi, Chairperson, Confederation of Tanzania Industries and Member of the Governing Council of the East African Business Council;

Members of the Diplomatic Community;

Representatives and Members of the Society for International Development;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Thank you for inviting me to officiate at this Tanzania Launch of the East African Scenarios Stories and Research Compendium.

I am particularly pleased, as a long standing member of the Society for International Development, to see the results of 10 year of thinking within SID East Africa, about the possible futures facing East Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We live in an interconnected world and in time of significant uncertainty and unintended consequences. The rising risk of a global economic slowdown started with what looked like a purely American problem with bad home loans.

Growing concern about global climate change, combined with rising energy prices is galvanizing investment into alternative energy sources, including bio fuels.

But it seems that part of the reason for the rising global food prices, has to do with the competition for grains between cars and people. In some places, people are losing and expressing their anger at this situation.

Closer to home, the aftermath of recent elections in two African countries has raised important questions about the leadership's commitment to respecting the will of the electorate. Indeed, it flies in the face of the African Charter on Elections, Democracy and Governance adopted by the African Union in January, 2007. What is particularly disconcerting is that in both cases, the cost-human and economic-crosses national boundaries.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is evident that civil society organizations such as SID have a critical role to play in providing an alternative set of interpretations and solutions for the challenges we face in our sub-region in our continent and globally.

Since its formation in 1957, SID has been at the cutting edge of international public policy. The very idea of human development which encompasses more than the conventional economic

measure of per capita income was incubated in SID, and introduced to the world by the United Nations in 1990. The very first Earth Summit, held in Stockholm in 1972, was also first proposed within SID. Several members of the South Commission chaired by the Father of our Nation, the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, were prominent leaders of SID.

Here, in east Africa, SID has contributed to deepening understanding and dialogue on sustainable livelihoods, national social, political and economic futures, resource-based conflicts, inequality and gender-based budgeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The scenarios developed for Kenya in 2000, Tanzania in 2003, Uganda in 2004 under the SID East Africa Futures Programme have certainly captured and challenged the imagination of those who have participated in and interacted with them.

SID's pioneering State of East Africa Reports published in 2006 and 2007 provide excellent lens through which to understand the deeper forces shaping the region. I have read them and appreciated the information and insights they contain, and their power to catalyze the imagination. SID must be congratulated for this innovative set of annual reports.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

A few minutes ago, we listened to creative and challenging stories about three possible futures for East Africa. Of course, none of us knows what the future holds. However, these stories help us to imagine what we might have to face. They dare us to think deeply and in new ways about the decisions we make today and their implications for our individual and collective futures.

The stories we heard – **I want to be a Star, I want a Visa** and **Usiniharakishe** – were not plucked out of thin air. They have emerged out of a process of serious research, analysis and reflection by many East Africans, of different generations, from across the region.

This analysis is contained in the 10 chapters of the **East African Scenarios Research Compendium** which examines the people of East Africa, their institutions, the regional economy and East Africa's relationship with the world. Demonstrating the typical SID desire to promote dialogue, the Compendium contains a selection of observations from analysts and commentators in the United Kingdom and the United States, which provides both supportive and contrasting counterpoints to the perspectives of the East African authors.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The two books we have come to launch this afternoon contain a wealth of information, insight and imagination. They are a very valuable contribution to the important discussion that is taking place between us, about the prospects for our East African region. I am grateful to SID and the large team of East Africans who have worked so hard to produce them.

It therefore, gives me great pleasure to launch the East African Scenario Stories and Research Compendium here in Tanzania.

Thank you for your attention.