

# THE MWALIMU NYERERE FOUNDATION



**REMARKS BY**

**DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM**

**AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE UN-EXHIBITION**

**"WORKING TOGETHER IN TANZANIA"**

AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM  
DAR ES SALAAM  
UN DAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2003

**REMARKS BY DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM AT THE LAUNCHING  
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WFP Country Representative

Your Excellencies Ambassador's and High Commissioners

Distinguished Representatives of the UN Agencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me on the onset state how pleased I am to be invited to officiate the opening of this Exhibition which is part of UN Day Celebrations for this year. The theme “Working Together in Tanzania” is indeed a true testimony of UN – Tanzania Country Team collaboration in working with the Tanzania people in various areas of development. I would therefore like to thank the UN system in Tanzania for putting together this important Exhibition. The activities displayed in this exhibition will undoubtedly increase public awareness on the important work of the UN in Tanzania and at the

same time promote the ideals and goals of the organization in the country.

As we observe United Nations Day this year, we are indeed celebrating the spirit of international cooperation and dedication to Peace as enshrined in the UN Charter. For years since its inception, the UN has led the world in addressing international security problems and promoting human rights and human dignity. Considerable achievements have been made in this regard and on an occasion like this it is important to recognize that. Yet, it also remains a fact that the scourge of conflicts, economic disparities violation of human rights and more recently increased acts of international terrorism continue to threaten global stability and contribute to human misery. Millions of innocent people have lost their lives in conflict situation. Millions of families have been driven from their homelands to seek refuge in neighbouring countries and many more millions have been Internally Displaced in their countries of origin. These are challenges facing the UN system. Many of these challenges recognise no borders and can only be addressed by nations working together with shared resources and common goals. The UN is

uniquely positioned to facilitate the collective efforts of the International Community to address these and other problems. It is important to stress this especially in these rather turbulent times in the international situation.

We can for example take comfort in the fact that as we are observing United Nation Day today, more than half of the worlds people live under governments of their own democratic choice, an achievement that reflects the role the UN has played as a peacemaker and staunch advocate of international democratic good governance and human rights. At the same time however it is important to note that about three fourth of these people live in developing countries, and more than a billion of them live in abject poverty. Clearly the gap between the world's richest and poorest countries is widening. UN has been and is still working hard, through different institutions including the World Bank, the IMF to address this gap by supporting comprehensive debt relief and providing assistance in the form of loans and grants to developing nations for projects that promote health, nutrition, education, entrepreneurship and civil society.



In Tanzania, the development assistance provided by the UN System agencies is anchored in the UN development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) which is rooted in the national development priorities as articulated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRP); the Tanzania Assistance Strategy (TAS) and more broadly to the Zanzibar Poverty Reduction Plan (ZPRP).

All these efforts are designed to achieve greater integration among the individual programmes of UN Funds, programmes and Specialised Agencies, within the context of the UN Secretary General's reform initiatives, which aim at enhancing the overall impact of UN Development and humanitarian assistance and promoting a human rights-based approach to development. The UN has been providing support through the Poverty Monitoring System which is the main tool for the Poverty Reduction Strategy. UN is also supporting national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), through the PRS. The MDGs are the heart of the UN's efforts worldwide to support national poverty reduction

endeavors and are a powerful tool for advocacy and mobilization of public support.

We cannot observe the UN Day this year without taking into account the efforts taken to deal with the major threat to the security and very survival of the people of our continent. Here I refer to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic. Accelerating action against HIV/AIDS is a challenge which depends on the actions we take today. HIV/AIDS has finally reached the top of the African agenda. It is encouraging that more and more of the continent's political leaders, civil society and groups of people living with HIV are ringing the alarm bells against AIDS, taking concrete action themselves and demanding more action from others. Africa is rising to the challenge. The international community is also responding. Action against AIDS in Africa is accelerating, but not fast enough. The spread of HIV on the continent remains relentless. At least 60 million Africans have been directly impacted by AIDS, 30 million are living with this deadly virus, more than 15 million have died from AIDS, and more than 11 million have lost at least one parent to the epidemic.

In Tanzania, HIV/AIDS places a great challenge to development efforts with new infections increasing among young people (especially females between the ages of 15 and 24), and with over two million AIDS orphaned children, HIV/AIDS is not only the greatest single threat to Tanzania's human resource development, but also to peoples' individual survival and well-being.

The UN System has undertaken a number of important initiatives to support national efforts to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic. For instance, it has intensified its advocacy work and the provision of policy advisory services to the country and has facilitated a number of initiatives. It has helped in the establishment and capacity development of TACAIDS, formulation of a National Multisectoral Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS, which provides strategic guidance for the planning of programmes, projects and interventions by various stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS. District-Response Initiatives (DRIs), based on good practices from pilot programmes have also been supported and efforts are being made to further integrate DRIs into the participatory planning process

at district and community level so as to accelerate nation-wide implementation.

Community-based processes, especially those involving young people, need to be given further priority. This is a commendable contribution by the UN system which we applaud. More support to community-based response initiatives and to civil society/non-governmental organizations is expected, with funds from the Global Fund (GFATM) and significant grant funding from bilateral donors and the World Bank. It is a truism that with these initiative, UN System remain a true development partner ready to engage in policy dialogue, share global experience and build national capacity for development. Some of these efforts are demonstrated in this exhibition of which I am convinced we will all benefit from.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the UN System for their untiring support to the development of Tanzania and while thanking the Donor Community for their continued funding for development and humanitarian assistance for Tanzania, I wish to request them to continue and intensify their assistance.



Lastly I appeal to the general public to come to this important exhibition which is demonstrative of the significant and commendable working relationship that prevail between the UN-Community and Tanzanians.

I now declare the Exhibition open

Thank you