

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF ZANZIBAR,
H.E. DR. ALI MOHAMED SHEIN, AT THE THIRD
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES, APIA, SAMOA, 1-4 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Your Excellency...

President of the Third International Conference on SIDS;

**Your Excellency, Ambassador John W. Ashe, President of the
68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly;**

**Your Excellency, Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations
Secretary-General;**

Excellencies;

Distinguished delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great honour and pleasure to join you in this Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States being held in Apia. I thank the Government and People of Samoa for the warm hospitality accorded to my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful Island of Upolu. I wish to convey to you warm greetings and assurances of continued solidarity of the Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania and its President, H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. He would have loved to attend but he has been held up by other exigencies. I am honoured and privileged to represent him.

Since we are all bound by a desire to make our islands a friendly and a wholesome place to live in harmony with nature, Tanzania fully supports the theme of the conference. This is a unique opportunity for SIDS to discuss and propose solutions for addressing the myriad of challenges facing them as listed in the clusters we are going to discuss.

It would be very difficult for me not to mention the additional handicaps that Small Island Developing States face arising from interplay of such factors as the smallness, remoteness and accessibility y, frequency of natural disasters and other factors outside their control that make the journey towards sustainable development more complex and severe compared to other developing states.

Mr. President,

Let me use these brief remarks to highlight some key challenges, which require urgent actions and strengthened partnership in the era of post-2015 development agenda. Our first preoccupation must and should remain to accelerate interventions geared towards environmental conservation and poverty eradication. It is vital that we address the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals to spawn the ability of Small Island Developing States to shelter themselves from forces outside their control. MDGs related to eradication of poverty, environmental sustainability, women and children health and promoting gender equality and women

empowerment and availability of means of implementation should continue to take driver's seat in the post 2015 development agenda.

In addition there are cases of education opportunities for all; investment promotion; tourism development for economic growth and job creation. Tourism is part and parcel of our survival. All these should be on our development agenda.

Climate change presents the gravest threat to the survival and viability of SIDS. Our communities continue to witness the effects of climate change on daily basis, when fishing, farming and fetching water from wells that have been intruded by seawater.

It is therefore incumbent upon all of us to urge developed countries to increase transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies, capacity building support and ensure adequate, predictable and new and additional finance to enable increased mitigation and adaptation actions by developing countries including SIDS.

We should be absolutely unequivocal in calling for a legally binding instrument for advancing our collective interventions under the UNFCCC to be adopted during COP21 to be held in Paris in December 2015. I wish to assure you that the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Coordinator of the

Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) shall reinforce this African position at the upcoming Climate Summit of the Secretary-General.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude my remarks by underscoring the importance of partnership in effective implementation of achieving the development aspirations of Small Island Developing States. SIDS should continue to champion partnerships in all their forms. The Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania will continue to support the SIDS agenda, including the post-2015 Development Agenda.

I thank you for your kind attention.

