



# United Republic of Tanzania

## Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY ENG. MBOGO FUTAKAMBA, DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND CO-OPERATIVES OF THE UNITED  
REPUBLIC OF TANZANI AT THE THIRD SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, NEW YORK 22 MAY 2013**

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*Co-Chairs,*

At the outset, I wish to associate this statement with the Statements delivered on behalf of the African Group, the G77 and China and the Least Developing Countries (LDCs). I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

My delegation welcomes the discussions on food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and droughts. The discussions of this thematic cluster is timely and key in eradicating poverty as more than 75 per cent of entire population in Tanzania lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture for its livelihoods. The report of African Development Bank Group on Agriculture Sector Strategy 2010 - 2014 clearly states that agriculture supports the livelihoods of 80 per cent of the African population, provides employment for about 60 per cent of the economically active population, and for about 70 per cent of the poorest people on the continent.

As we proceed with discussions on the establishment of SDGs, we must bear in mind that AGRICULTURE is life for most Africans - sustained economic growth, sustainable development and eradication of poverty can only be achieved if we redouble our efforts in investment and mechanisation of the agricultural sector. This thematic cluster of issues together with water, sanitation as well as energy are interconnected and mutually reinforcing thus must be addressed in an integrated manner in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that we are endeavouring to establish.

*Co-Chairs,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I wish to reiterate that Tanzania perceives the SDGs that we are seeking to establish as the Second Generation of the Millennium Development Goals. These goals should draw important lessons as well as best practices from the MDGs and other regionally and internationally agreed goals currently being implemented in our countries. The imminent challenge is to build on the gains already registered in fighting poverty, illiteracy and diseases.

We are fully aware of the shortfalls in the MDGs, particularly MDG 1. Going forward, we should strive to address the wide spectrum of issues in an integrated manner to ensure food security, improved nutrition, sustainable agriculture and effective water management. Those efforts should run parallel with efforts to address drought, desertification and land degradation which are exacerbated by ever worsening climate changes, whose impact on some developing countries is calamitous.

My delegation concurs with the observation of the Technical Support Team (TST) that strategies for addressing poverty, in all its forms and manifestations, must be “nutritional sensitive” with a view to ensure a commensurate impact. Nutrition is at the heart of food security and sustainable agriculture. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania attaches great importance on nutrition in its development programmes, especially pertaining to agriculture and health in general. The focus at the moment is on children, both infants and those of school age as well as expectant mothers and those who are breastfeeding. In my country these efforts are jointly undertaken by the Ministries responsible for agriculture, health, education and regional and local administration.

#### *Co-Chairs,*

We wish to reaffirm the criterion agreed in Rio + 20 that SDGs should be “global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities”.

The reality for Africa is that, its population is on the rise, with it, increased demand for arable land for agriculture which includes crop production, animal husbandry, fisheries or bee keeping; as well as water resources which are waning at an alarming rate, partly due to severe and prolonged droughts and desertification.

The SDGs on food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, drought and desertification, land degradation and other related aspects should provide clear targets for unleashing the enormous potential of Africa in agriculture. For Africa to be able to undertake sustainable agricultural growth we need increased access to grants and credits, fair playing levels on global markets and trade; improved agricultural productivity per acreage; increased investment in infrastructure including irrigation systems; undertaking research and development; establishment of processing industries to minimise both pre and post-harvest losses; reducing rural vulnerability especially among women, girls, boys and the elderly; as well as improved agricultural processes.

Noting the challenges facing the continent and in full recognition of the commitments arrived at in several international fora for assisting Africa, the SDGs should encompass clear targets for transfer of technology and unconditional technical assistance to African countries, upon request - common knowledge technology.

*Co-Chairs,  
Ladies and Gentlemen*

My delegation proposes that water and sanitation should be pegged to two sub-themes: first, supply enhancement (water management) for increased access to conventional water resources by reusing drainage water and waste water, desalination, inter-basin transfer and pollution control. Second: demand management; we need to put in place a set of action which will assist in controlling overall water demand and raise the economic value of water.

Strengthening efforts for addressing drought and desertification is critical in achieving sustainable agriculture and food security. My country and many other Member States have established stringent mechanisms for addressing drought and desertification as well as preserving biodiversity and limiting the effects of climate change. The SDGs should not attempt to diminish the role of these mechanisms rather establish avenues for complimenting them by ensuring they are responsive to States – parties and non-parties alike, in a coordinated, consistent and integrated manner.

Meeting the needs of the future depends on how well we balance social, economic and environmental objectives and needs when making decisions today. We need to develop SDGs with defined measures to address these issues. Our future goals should address the missing links in the current MDGs. Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture should be our priority areas in formulating the new goals to guide our future. We have tough times ahead of us but I believe that we will succeed if we work in close partnership and cooperation while owning to the principles set by SDGs. SDGs should enable Member States to prosper.

**I thank you.**