

TANZANIA NATIONAL STATEMENT

The Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania commend the President of the United States of America, His Excellency Barack Obama for conceiving the idea of convening this US-Africa Leaders Summit. We in Tanzania, find this Summit and its theme, of "**Investing on the Next Generation**" to be very opportune indeed. We see, this Summit playing a significant role in deepening US-Africa relationship and accelerating Africa's development with the United States being our partner. Since Africa's population is predominantly composed of young people, putting the interest of Africa's youth at the centre of the Summit agenda is the right thing to do. We must empower our young men and women to play their rightful role as citizens of their respective countries. .

African countries have a long history of cooperation with the United States in many fields. Generally, US interventions and support have made a huge difference in promoting social-economic growth and development in many African countries. This Summit provides a perfect opportunity to deepen this cooperation and explore new areas of mutual interest. The fact that there is conspicuous involvement of both the US Administration and the US private sector speaks volumes about what can be achieved at this Summit.

Africa's story has changed for the better. The continent, Tanzania included, is on the rise, creating a lot of prospects and optimism about its future. In the last decade many African countries have recorded robust economic growth, with high prospects for better performance in coming decades. Africa accounts for six of the world's fastest growing economies. These attributes are a function of pursuing sound economic policies, opening up of their economies and improving investment climate. As a result, Africa's potential for trade and investment has been unlocked. Investor's confidence towards Africa is on the rise as evidenced by the increased volume of FDI flows and increased trade between African nations and between Africa and the rest of the world. However, Africa can absorb more investments and trade. We look to this Summit to help with regard to increased US investments and trade with Africa.

It is important to note, that many African countries come from very humble beginnings. They have structural limitations for growth as a result of colonialism and the political and economic policies pursued soon after independence. Since two decades ago, many have embarked on political and economic reforms with demonstrable success. Democracy is taking root, governance has improved considerably and so is security and stability. There are fewer countries grappling with serious internal and external security challenges. However, the progress is still fragile hence many of our countries need support

to consolidate the gains and advance to greater heights. Partnership with the United States is particularly important in this regard.

Tanzania believes, as many African nations do, that the United States has what it takes to help Africa to overcome the overarching development and security challenges. It possesses both the capacity and capability to do so. Throughout the course of history, we have witnessed the United States government and its private sector playing a pivotal role in transforming post war Europe and Asia from devastation to prosperity. We believe, US can do the same to Africa. This is a historic duty which has been delayed in coming, but, whose time has now come.

We, in Tanzania have seen firsthand what US support can do. Through the MCC some remote parts of our country have been opened up and integrated with the main economy, through development of roads, airports and electricity. We also bear witness to millions of lives of women and children saved because of health programs like PEPFAR and PMI. Fewer people are dying of HIV/AIDS and Malaria today than they used to few decades ago. We have seen through Feed the Future Programme (FTF), Tanzania is slowly but surely becoming food self sufficient and many homes food secure and their incomes have increased. They are steadily moving out of the hunger and poverty trap. These and many more success stories, convince us that, with more US government support and private sector participation, we can push poverty and underdevelopment to the annals of history.

Private Sector Development

In the same vein, Tanzania would like to see the United States become proactive in private sector development in Africa. Since independence and for understandable reasons, many African governments opted for government led development. Governments owned the commanding heights of the economy and were directly involved in production, trade and services. Following the economic reforms of the 1980s, the private sector has been left to take the lead. It became evident that there is need to build an indigenous private sector. Many countries need support to do so. Specifically support is needed to build entrepreneurship skills and make capital available particularly for those starting up businesses. The majority of them happen to be young people. Even those who need to expand their businesses also need support.

Agricultural Transformation

This Summit should, give agricultural transformation the priority it deserves. It is critical for ensuring food and nutrition security as well as eradication of poverty.

Unfortunately, Africa's agriculture is characterized with low productivity and low production. In a number of countries there are programmes to deal with the constraints which impede high productivity and production in agriculture. There is also a continental wide programme: The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

However, the implementation of these programmes have not been so very successful because of financial, technical and technological challenges. The US has the capacity to assist African countries deal with these challenges. We have in mind, US government support and the US private sector participation in the agriculture value chain. As we acknowledge US government support through programmes like Feed the Future, Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security, we appeal for scaling up support in terms of resources and coverage of countries.

Infrastructure

As we all know, infrastructure is key to promoting growth and development. Unfortunately, Africa's infrastructure is poorly developed thus holding back Africa's development in a big way. Infrastructure development requires heavy capital investments which many African countries cannot afford. We need more support from the US and other developed countries. The MCC serves a good model in this regard. We are aware of the wonderful achievements made as well as those made through Partnership for Growth. We are aware of the Power Africa Initiative and its potential for advancing electricity development in Africa. We pray for increased resources in these initiatives so that much more can be done. We also wish the US to impress upon other developed countries to emulate this good example.

Trade and Investment

As alluded to earlier, investments and trade the US helped her allies in Asia and Europe recover quickly from the devastation of World War II. The US can use similar model with Africa to promote growth on the continent although the circumstances are different. AGOA has been an excellent model in accelerating Africa's access to US market. However, it has become evident that, the main challenge to date, has been the supply side constraints on the part of African countries. Investments from US coupled with technical, technological and financial support can help overcome this predicament.

We are glad that promoting trade and investment is at the core of the agenda of this Summit. We also welcome President Obama's Initiative on Trade for Africa. We hope it

will help promote investment in manufacturing and production of goods and services through trade value chains.

Peace and Security in Africa

We look forward to US leadership and continued cooperation and support in peace and security endeavours in Africa. US should continue to assist African nations and the African Union to build greater capacity for preventing, management and resolution of conflict. We also expect to continued support in building capacity to combat transitional crime, terrorism, human trafficking, narcotic trade, protect resources on land and at sea and scale up anti-poaching initiatives.

Democracy and Good Governance

On Democracy and good governance, focus should not only be on electoral processes but on building strong institutions to support the rule of law and democratic governance. More support should be directed towards young democracies to help them deliver on people's expectations. Failure of democracy to do so is recipe for political instability as we have seen in a number of countries in Africa.

Conclusion

Once again, Tanzania congratulates President Barack Obama for organizing this Summit. It underlines his concern and commitment for Africa's development and readiness to make a difference. We deeply appreciate it and look forward with great anticipation to the outcomes of this historic first ever US-Africa Leaders Summit. We hope its beginning of many more such Summit in future. Tanzania expresses our full support and cooperation.