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**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA, HIS EXCELLENCY BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA, DURING
THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK,
21 SEPTEMBER 2004**

Mr. President:

I congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I assure you of Tanzania's support as you discharge your mandate.

I pay tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Julian Hunte, for his able stewardship of the work of the General Assembly.

I commend the Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, and his staff, for their tireless efforts during a very difficult year.

Millennium Development Goals

Mr. President:

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represent our vision and hope for a new global partnership for shared global prosperity and security—an ideal at the very heart of the United Nations. But we are still way off the mark in meeting many of them, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. We must further strengthen our common resolve to act in their resolute pursuit. In this, as in other things, actions speak louder than words.

We commend Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden for consistently meeting the long-established UN target of allocating at least 0.7% of the national incomes of rich countries to development cooperation. These countries have broad national consensus on this matter; and their people are not in any way poorer because of it!

We urge the other rich countries to produce timetables to meet this long overdue target, to have coherent development policies, and to earnestly and deliberately build and nurture a national consciousness and consensus on the global war on poverty. This war should now be a central political issue for all countries, rich and poor. Only then will the political will to do more for the timely attainment of the MDGs be generated.

It is true money is not a panacea, but the 8th MDG—"Develop a Global Partnership for Development"—may actually be the single most important key to unlocking new initiatives and latent capacities to enable the attainment of MDGs. And a genuine partnership implies shared rights and responsibilities, as well as a shared commitment to be evaluated. I commend the Governments of the Netherlands and Denmark for conducting, and making public, evaluations of their performance in meeting their commitments under the eighth millennium development goal.

On our part, never before have so many African governments committed themselves to good democratic governance, to peer review, to ownership of the development agenda, and to participatory prioritisation and sequencing of the tasks necessary for the attainment of MDGs. We now need equally unprecedented commitment in deeds not words—to the global war on poverty in all rich countries. African countries doing their part in the global compact on poverty alleviation should not be constrained by lack of supportive external resources. In Monterrey, developed countries pledged to match stronger reform efforts in developing countries with

increased support. Tanzania asks that they should now show leadership by delivering on their promises.

When both rich and poor countries meet their obligations, tangible progress is realised.

innocent Tanzanians. There should never be any doubt about our unflinching resolve to cooperate with others in combating terrorism in all its forms.