



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY BERNARDINA ALI NYAMWA, DEPUTY MINISTER

FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENDER AND CHILDREN OF THE

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE 55TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN: "ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

AND GIRLS IN EDUCATION, TRAINING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INCLUDING FOR THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S EQUAL ACCESS TO

FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK"

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Chairperson,

I, the Chairperson, welcomes you, and other members of the Bureau, to your election and assures you of our full cooperation and support.

The reports submitted to this session. We are certain that the reports will serve as a useful guide of our deliberations.

My delegations align itself with the statements delivered earlier by the distinguished representatives of the Group of 77 and China, and by Namibia on behalf of SADC member states.

Chairperson,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has made access and participation of women to education, full employment and decent work one of its priority agenda. This includes equal access for women and girls to science and technology. We believe that science and technology will provide them with the tools they need to make sense of the world and are empowered to make informed decisions on critical aspects of their lives.

Chairperson,

Strong political commitment from the President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete himself and the entire government has ensured mainstreaming of gender equality objectives in all government policies programmes, including national strategies for growth and poverty reduction.

We recognize that women's limited participation in decision making is a major problem. That is why we reviewed the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania to provide for affirmative action to increase women's participation in the national Parliament as well as in local Government Councils.

Currently, women form 25 per cent of all seats in Parliament and the current Speaker is a woman. The number of women members of Parliament has risen from 63 in 2004 to 125 currently. In the Zanzibar House of Representatives, the ratio of women is 30 per cent.

Gender parity has been attained in basic education and the gap has narrowed substantially in higher levels of education. The net enrolment ratio for female pupils in primary schools has increased from 93.9 per cent in 2003-2004 to 97 per cent in 2008. In 2009, the Government reviewed its Education and Training Policy (1995) to incorporate gender issues. Amongst others that were addressed include the improvement of the school environment to make it girl-friendly through; urging communities to provide school meals, boarding and sanitary facilities for girls and recruitment of more teachers.

Laws have been enacted to prohibit violence against women and all gender based abuses. Discriminatory laws have been amended. We have strived to meet our international obligations related to the advancement,

protection and equality of women. The Government has acceded, signed, or ratified several conventions and international declarations or instruments that may provide a comprehensive and principled guidance, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Tanzania will continue to do all in its power to eliminate all remaining forms of discrimination against women, and will strive to live up to all its commitments under all relevant international instruments and declarations.

Chairperson,

Tanzania introduced specific institutional policies to address gender inequality in science and higher education. These include the Female Education in Mathematics and Science in Africa (FEMSA) Tanzania Project (1996-2001) and the University of Dar es Salaam Pre-Entry Remedial Programme for Engineering Students (1997). These affirmative actions have yielded some positive results as noted in the Secretary-General's report. For example, the University of Dar es Salaam increased women's enrolment in engineering from 2002 to 2004 to 27 per cent in 2007-2009 by introducing a pre-admission remedial programme for female applicants, a six-week remedial course followed by an entrance examination, as a result female engineering students have increased from 32% in 2005/2006 to 55% in 2009/2010.

Chairperson,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has made progress in mainstreaming gender policies, strategies, programmes and plans. We are however faced with a challenge of translating policy into practice. Many obstacles including capacity building on gender analysis, insufficient gender expertise to influence policy and planning, weak capacities of gender machineries and changing interests of the Government are continuous challenges and ought to be a continuous process. Despite resource constraints, the Government has been laid and there is commitment and determination to advance this cause.

Chairperson,

Tanzania has great hopes and significant expectations from UN-Women, the new United Nations' Gender Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, we are pleased and encouraged to become a member of the first Executive Board, and have been encouraged by the energy, focus and commitment shown by the Executive Director, Anne Mnene Mchumba, and we welcome an interesting story stated in this session. UN-Women has to be our important partner as we implement our national agenda for gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through capacity building and strengthening of various aspects.

Chairperson,

I wish to once again to appreciate the commitment of the United Republic of Tanzania to the promotion of access and participation of women in higher education, training, science and technology, including women's equal access to productive and decent work.

I thank you.



protection and equality of women. The Government has accepted signed, and international declarations of commitment that provide a commitment to uphold gender equity, human and women rights. Tunisia will continue to do so in its power to eliminate all remaining forms of discrimination against women, and will strive to live up to all its commitments under all relevant international instruments and declarations.

Chairperson,

Tunisia introduced specific institutions... These efforts have yielded some positive results as noted in the Secretary-General's report. For example, the University of Dar es Salaam increased women's enrollment in engineering from 7 per cent in 2005-2006 to 27 per cent in 2007-2008 by modifying its admission criteria and offering bursaries. Female applicants always rank high and course followed by an entrance examination. As a result female students in higher education have increased from 35.28 in 2006/2007 to 38.74 in 2008/2009.

Chairperson,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has made progress in mainstreaming gender policies, strategic programmes and plans. We are committed to a change of traditional gender roles. Many studies including capacity building on gender analysis, institutional gender disaggregated data to influence policy and planning, and capacity of gender mainstreaming and changing the mindsets of the people is a continuous challenge and ought to be a continuous process. Despite these constraints, the foundation has been laid and there is continuing and determination to advance the cause.

Chairperson,

Tunisia has great hopes and ambitions regarding the new United Nations Gender Equity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women... first Executive Board, and has been encouraged by the Secretary-General, the Secretary-General's High Level Panel of Experts, and the Secretary-General's High Level Panel of Experts. UN-Women has to be our first priority in the empowerment of women and the empowerment of women, including through capacity building and strengthening the National Gender Machinery in all aspects.

Chairperson,

In closing, I wish to once again reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the United Republic of Tunisia to the promotion of access and participation of women and girls in education, science and technology, including women's equal access to full employment and decent work.

I thank you.