



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

—  
STATEMENT

BY

**HON. MATHIAS MEINRAD CHIKAWÉ  
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND  
CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE  
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE  
4<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,  
GENEVA, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2007**

---

**Check against Delivery**

**Mr President,  
Hon. High Commissioner of Human Rights,  
Distinguished delegates,**

It gives me great pleasure to address this 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council. My delegation joins the previous speakers to express our appreciation for the work that is being done by yourself and the bureau in the setting up of this important body. My delegation affirms its support and cooperation to the bureau at all times.

**Mr. President,**

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania remains committed to upholding the principles of human rights. It is in this regard that my country remains concerned about the ongoing and increasing violence against humanity across the world. We acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the international community so far and continue to urge the same to immediately bring such abominable acts against humanity to an end.

**Mr President,**

Poverty is both the cause and effect of gross inequality, abuse on democratic values, civil violence due to struggles for resources, and imposition of policies that only benefit the giver to the detriment of the receiver.

It is despicable to advocate indivisibility, interdependence and universality of human rights while quite clearly some of our actions are propelling others to violate human rights of innocent souls. It is also unbecoming for any country to preach human rights abroad while violating the same at home. Let us do away with double standards, selectivity and politicization of human rights for such approach will only jeopardise our resolve to ending impunity in the world. Therefore what is considered unacceptable to one country must not be treated differently in relation to others; else the principle of equality, for which we hold firm, will become meaningless.

**Mr. President,**

Several measures have been taken by my government to protect peoples' right. Recently, the Government has appointed 20 new judges and 85 magistrates so as to facilitate speedy administration and dispensation of justice. The Government with the support of Development Partners is implementing the Medium Term Strategy of the Legal Sector Reform Programme whose vision is to achieve timely and equitable justice for all through a cooperative framework comprised of both state and non-state actors.

The Government has also established a Ministry of Public Safety and Security, under which the Police are undergoing reforms to enable them to dispense their duties more adequately while respecting and promoting human rights and the rule of law. Human rights is an integral part of the police curriculum.

**Mr. President,**

There have been encouraging gains in the protection and promotion of human rights in Tanzania following the establishment of an independent Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance. The Commission is a constitutionally established body which is mandated with the task of protecting and promoting human rights and good governance in the country. Recently it published a report titled "Public Inquiry/Public Hearing on Child Abuse in Tanzania". The report depicted the violations perpetrated against children. We acknowledge that there is a lot to be done to adequately safeguard the rights of the child.

**Mr. President,**

Violence against Women and children is another area of concern to my country. The Government of Tanzania is taking positive steps to address gender based violence. In this respect the government has enacted several laws to protect women and children from abuse. My government promotes and stimulates debates on gender issues, encourages education on gender violence and engages Civil Society Organisations and Non-government Organisation to address the same. Tanzania is a signatory to the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and has recently ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; on the rights of women.

Tanzania is responding quite positively on issues of women empowerment and gender parity. Women are being empowered and encouraged to take part in leadership. Currently women occupy 30 percent of the seats in the Union Parliament. The goal is to achieve 50 percent by year 2010. We are confident that we will achieve our goals. We urge this noble Council and the International community to fully support our endeavours.

**Mr. President,**

Several laws are being considered for reform with the view of bringing them in conformity with International Human Rights Standards. These include a child law, the law of marriage, inheritance and succession law, the law on combating and preventing corruption which has already had its first reading in Parliament and the provisions of the law on the death penalty.

Worth mentioning is a proposal on the law on combating and preventing trafficking of human beings especially women and children. Trafficking of human beings is a modern day slavery which knows no borders thus a concern for all humanity. Tanzania would like to remind all of us that in commemorating the Transatlantic Slave Trade Day, we should also remember that slavery is still with us today although in a different form. We must be bold and sincere to put to an end all forms of oppression and indignity to the human race.

**Mr. President,**

We welcome the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the General Assembly which shall be open for signature by the end of this month. The only remaining challenge before us is the implementation of the Convention. Tanzania has in place a National Disability Policy that is in line with the rules and standard of the Convention. My government is also reviewing its disability legislations with the view of addressing the rights of people with disabilities.

To conclude, Mr. President, I wish to reiterate my government's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. We appeal to the Council to continue offering its support to my government in the implementation of various plans and programmes pertaining to the promotion of human rights.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**