



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

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STATEMENT BY

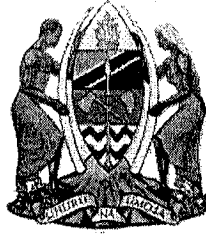
**MS. MARY MUSHI,
PERMANENT SECRETARY,
VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA,**

**AT THE 12TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

UNITED NATIONS

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2004

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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**STATEMENT BY MS. MARY MUSHI, PERMANENT SECRETARY,
VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA,
AT THE 12TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT, NEW YORK, APRIL 2004**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate you and your bureau on your election to lead this august meeting of the 12th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I also thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive reports before the Commission.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Distinguished Representative of the Kingdom of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The thematic areas of implementation for CSD 12 and 13 of water, sanitation and human settlements are of paramount importance to Tanzania. The greatest development challenge which Tanzania faces today, and which all efforts aim to address, is widespread and persistent poverty.

In addressing these challenges, the Government is empowering local authorities, civil society, private sector and the communities while remaining a facilitator of growth, a standard setter, and a provider of essential public services.

Mr. Chairman,

Currently, the water supply coverage in Tanzania is 53% in rural areas and 73% for urban areas. In order to continue improving delivery of water services, the Government has reviewed the National Water Policy so as to decentralize the management of water services, improve the management of water catchments areas and promote integrated water resources management in line with Agenda 21, Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Government has also prioritised water as a prerequisite in national development efforts, poverty reduction strategies and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

While there has been steady and sustainable improvement in the management of sewerage systems in urban centres, improved sanitation remains a big challenge. However, the Government has decided to restructure and privatize water supply and sewerage management authorities in the country with the aim of providing reliable, affordable and sustainable water supply services as well as improving sanitation.

Major challenges include the mushrooming and expansion of unplanned settlements as well as inadequate infrastructure and social services.

Mr. Chairman,

The government has adopted a Human Settlements Development Policy which recognises housing in unplanned areas and commits to facilitate their upgrading through participatory and partnership approaches with the private sector.

The newly developed Tanzania Settlements Sustainable Programme aims at strengthening the capacity of local authorities to plan and manage the growth and development of settlements.

As a case study for creation of settlements with serviced land, Dar Es Salaam City has planned, surveyed and provided basic infrastructure for 20,000 plots under this programme.

While these are recognisable efforts in this sector, remaining challenges include increased unemployment; traffic congestion resulting in air pollution; industrial pollution; infrastructure deficiency; and inadequate landfill sites.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by reiterating that the efforts and challenges in the sectors of water, sanitation and human settlements bear testimony of the need for the international community to work together in pursuit of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It should be the aim of this session to re-invigorate the political will and desire for the developed countries to support developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in capacity building, transfer of technology, and financial resources in order to eradicate poverty and ensure a better world for all.

I Thank You For Your Attention.