

**Handing Over Speech by Capt (Mr.) John Zefania Chilligati, (MP.)  
Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development,  
Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Co-Chair of the  
Third Session of the World Urban Forum.**

Your Excellencies

Mr. Jiang Wiexin, Minister of Housing and Urban – Rural  
Development of the Peoples Republic of China and the Co-Chair of  
the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum;

Hon. Kumara Selja, Minister of State, Ministry of Housing and  
Urban Poverty Alleviation, Republic of India and President of UN-  
HABITAT Governing Council;

Distinguished Ministers;

Madame Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka;

Heads of International Organizations;

Members of the Diplomatic Community;

Your Lordship the Mayors,

Representatives of civil society and the private sector;

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a great honor and privilege for me to address this Fourth Session of The World Urban Forum at the occasion of its official opening. I am standing here in my statutory capacity as the Co-Chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum held in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2006 and on behalf of Hon. Ms. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Government of Canada. Indeed, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, and my delegation at this meeting, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Your Excellency, Minister Jiang Wexin, and to the Government of the People's Republic of China and the leadership of the City of Nanjing for extending a gracious invitation for us to participate at this forum. We are grateful for the warm reception and hospitality given to us since our arrival at this beautiful and historic city.

I wish, also, to thank the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT Madame Anna Tibaijuka for the excellent preparations of this global event, and indeed for sustaining the momentum of the World Urban Forum. For those of us who represent governments, this has been an important occasion not only for us to meet our counterparts from other governments, but also, to engage into productive consultations with other global stakeholders who are involved with the urban development agenda. The impressive turn-up to the World Urban Forum in all its sessions is a testimony to the importance that we all attach to this event. Please accept our warm Congratulations Madam Director!

**Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Two years ago, in Vancouver, Canada, we partners of the Habitat Agenda reaffirmed our commitment to pursue with new vigor the agenda of sustainable urban development. We left Vancouver with a strong pledge and determination to reinvigorate our efforts in balancing economic, environmental, and social development with a view to realizing sustainable urbanization. We committed ourselves to foster partnerships among all stakeholders and at all levels; to promote innovations in managing urban development; to support and facilitate the principle of subsidiarity and particularly in enhancing the role of local authorities and community based organization; and to strive towards improving urban governance. With a resounding voice, we reasserted a commitment to transform ideas into practical and tangible actions that will improve the lives and wellbeing of all peoples. We were all inspired by a realization that humanity at that point was at the advent of what was described as an 'urban age'.

As the Co-chair of the 3rd World Urban Forum, I wish to register my satisfaction for the progress that has been made in the last two years in realizing the vision that was developed in Vancouver. The experience of my own country, the United Republic of Tanzania, in pursuing the urban sustainability agenda, gives me confidence that with determination and strong political will, we can

achieve our collective objectives. Indeed, my own consultations with fellow African Ministers; as well as reports I am receiving from Ministers in Asia-Pacific region, in the Latin American region; and in all other regions, confirm the achievability of this agenda. The same applies to the initiatives of other partners – in local authorities, in the private sector, and in the civil society. There is no doubt, and more so now as we all grapple with such agenda as the climate change, that sustainable urban development is an issue which needs top priority and urgent attention.

We appreciate the steps taken by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to present the Forum report and its recommendations to the 21<sup>st</sup> Governing Council of UN-HABITAT and to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. We are further appreciative of the endeavors the Executive Director is taking to focus central attention in UN-HABITAT's mid term strategy towards achieving sustainable urbanization. All of us, as Habitat Agenda partners we are duty bound to provide the necessary support to UN-HABITAT to enable its realization of the goals and objectives that we have charged it to achieve.

### **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This inauguration of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum, which is devoted to the theme of "Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced of Territorial Development", in no way implies the fulfillment of the agenda of the previous World Urban Forum. In

fact, I wish to pay tribute to UN-HABITAT and to the host country for committing this Nanjing Forum to a theme which is a logical development of our deliberations two years ago in Vancouver. Harmonious development and the components that have elaborated in the dialogues and other events, reinforce the process of sustainability. It is in this respect that I look forward to our deliberations in the next four days and to the concrete measures we will identify in the pursuit of this integrated agenda of grappling with the challenges of urbanization in the new millennium.

I should also mention in passing my appreciation for incorporating the notion of 'balanced territorial development' in the theme of this World Urban Forum. Indeed, it is true that for many of us in Africa as well as in Asia, the rural hinterland remains a critical space in our process of national development. The linkage between urban centres and the rural spaces around them is key for achieving sustainability and harmony. We are keen to learn from each other as well as from those who have overcome this challenge.

### **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have come in large numbers to Nanjing -from different sectors, different regions and different countries because we recognize that we have a shared global destiny. We need, therefore, to marshal our joint efforts and undertake our collective responsibility in pursuing this common agenda. It, therefore, gives me great

pleasure to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Government of the Republic of China on its appointment as the Chair of this session of the World Urban Forum and of its Advisory Group.

We have great confidence in the People's Republic of China and in your personal capacity, Mr. Minister, in steering this important meeting towards successful deliberations. I wish you every success; and it is with great pleasure and honour, that I now formally hand over to you today the Chair of the Fourth World Urban Forum.

Thank You