

**STATEMENT BY ERIC MUGURUSI, DIRECTOR OF
ENVIRONMENT, VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AT THE 6TH CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE, THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS
21 NOVEMBER 2000.**

Mr. President,
Honorable Ministers,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honor to address this Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Let me at the onset extend my sincere appreciation to you, the people and Government of Netherlands for hosting this historic event. Let me also extend sincere appreciation to the executive secretary Mr. Michael Cutajar and his team for their hard work and facilitation of our deliberations.

Mr. President,

The Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties sets another milestone in the history of the climate change agenda. In 1997 we adopted the Kyoto Protocol; in 1998 we committed ourselves to the Buenos Aires Plan of Action; we need to agree on concrete actions at this session of the COP. The outcome of this session will shape the future of mankind in the coming decades. We need to be pragmatic, show the world that we are committed to save the planet Earth. It is upon us all to act now before we reach a point of no return. In doing so, those countries with historical responsibilities to show the lead.

Mr. President,

The bottom line for COP 6 success will be clear commitment to provide financial resources to developing countries. There should be clear commitment for funding. New and additional financial resources should be made available to the Least Developed and developing countries for capacity building, technology transfer and for addressing adverse impacts of climate change. Such funding must be made available in a predictable and timely manner. The operating entity of the financial mechanism must be given clear guidance on all issues related to funding.

Mr. President,

Both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol recognize the specific needs and special situation of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Least Developed Countries will be the most affected by the adverse effects of the changing climate, and many are already experiencing them. Drought and desertification are on the increase in Tanzania; floods and windstorms are more frequent than ever before and food security is increasingly threatened because of failed harvests. Tanzania is among the countries with the lowest adaptive capacities, its economy depends almost exclusively on rainfed agriculture. There must be true commitment at this session of the COP to address the needs of countries such as Tanzania. Their needs as they relate to financial resources, capacity building and technology transfer must be met without any conditionalities. Governments and the private sector in the Least Developed and developing countries severely lack capacities to deal with the opportunities offered by the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention to adapt to the changing climate. Real opportunities might be forfeited due to lack of financial and technological

resources. Sustainable development objectives anticipated by the Kyoto Protocol might not be achieved. If the need for capacity building is overlooked, the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol would be severely constrained.

Mr. President,

It is regrettable that in the negotiations so far, there remain outstanding issues on critical areas such as funding of adaptation measures, complementarity, and equity in the distribution of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects and sinks in CDM. This COP must use every opportunity to ensure that these issues are resolved. There must be equitable distribution of CDM projects, geographically and regionally. We need to ensure that there are incentives to have CDM projects going to Least Developed Countries to give such countries equal opportunity to participate in this global agenda while addressing their sustainable development needs. Because of the need to mobilize requisite financial resources for adaptation, and for purposes of equity amongst the flexibility mechanisms, it is important that all carbon transactions are equitably charged to contribute to the Adaptation Fund. The adaptation levy must be extended to all the three flexibility mechanisms to provide sufficient resources for Adaptation requirements of the Least Developed and developing countries vulnerable to climate change.

Mr. President,

Another area of critical importance is environmental integrity. Environmental integrity for sustainable development can be achieved when there is real reduction in the emission of the greenhouse gases (GHGs). There must be real domestic actions to reduce the emissions by Annex I countries. Any other

emissions reductions through the Kyoto mechanism must supplemental to domestic action. The overall emphasis must be on domestic activities to reduce the major share of the total Assigned Amounts. It will be environmentally irresponsible to have loopholes that encourage non-action at domestic level.

Mr. President,

Arguments have been put forward on the need to include sinks in the Clean Development Mechanism. Addressing poverty and the desire to address the immediate problems of many developing countries particularly those related to land degradation and desertification are among the reasons put across on the need to have sinks in the Clean Development Mechanism. Indeed these are genuine concerns and reflect the need to address poverty and other sustainable development needs of developing countries as we address climate change.

However there are key risk factors associated with crediting land use, land use change and forestry projects under the Clean Development Mechanism. The level of scientific uncertainty related to the nature and absorptive capacity of sinks; the issues of permanence and leakages, issues related to national sovereignty make us believe that it is not the right time to include sinks in the Clean Development Mechanism. The fact that it is not possible to measure the greenhouse gases benefits from Land Use, Land Use-Change and Forestry projects with the same degree of certainty as the benefits from projects in other sectors, suggests the need for caution. Given the potential uncertainty and impermanence associated with benefits from Land Use, Land Use-Change and Forestry projects, it does not make practical sense to direct

Clean Development Mechanism investments towards these project types at the expense of investments in the energy and industry sectors that are more likely to contribute to long term sustainable development and greenhouse gases mitigation. In Tanzania, forests represent a multi-use system, being home for wildlife and a basic support system for livelihoods. Ensuring protection of proposed "Clean Development Mechanism Carbon forests" poses a major threat to the Clean Development Mechanism regime.

As stated by His Excellence Jacques Chirac, the President of France at the opening ceremony of the high level segment, I quote **" If it were to be confirmed that reforestation, the fight against desertification and the fight against global warming can be mutually reinforcing, then we would be wrong to rule out this course, at least for the commitments to come for future periods. But we would still need to set limits and develop rigorous scientific criteria, able to ensure that genuine efforts are being made to cut emissions and of ascertaining that the actual absorptive power are taken into account"** end of quote.

We need to concentrate on projects that at once contribute to sustainable development and are environmentally sound. Such projects should be able to provide measurable achievements in terms of certified emissions reduction units and the ultimate objectives of the convention. Available evidence show that sinks cannot achieve this and need not to be included in the Clean Development Mechanism at this point. Forestry in the Clean Development Mechanism would rather wait until the science is better understood, and legal and management control issues are resolved.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, let me once again remind this session of the COP that as we gather today, human induced climate change is already occurring and that future change is inevitable. Sea levels are rising, precipitation patterns are changing, droughts, floods and extreme weather events are on the increase. The impact of the changing climate will be more severe to those of us who are already suffering. Food security is increasingly threatened, low lying coastal areas and islands like Zanzibar could be displaced with sea levels rising. We come to The Hague with a sense of urgency. Waiting for tomorrow will be too late. Let developed country parties take the lead. Lets work it out in the spirit of global partnership.

I thank you for your attention.