

**STATEMENT**  
**BY HON. EDWARD LOWASSA**  
**MINISTER OF STATE**  
**VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**  
**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**TO THE PLENARY OF**  
**THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT**  
**FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE**  
**OF THE PARTIES TO THE**  
**UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION**  
**ON CLIMATE CHANGE,**  
**BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA**  
**12 NOVEMBER 1998**

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OF STATE, VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, UNITED  
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, TO THE PLENARY OF  
THE HIGHLEVEL SEGMENT OF THE FOURTH  
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**Madam President,  
Honorable Ministers,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On behalf of the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, and on my own behalf I extend warm greetings to the friendly Government and the people of the Republic of Argentina. I convey sincere appreciation of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Government of Argentina for hosting this historic session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change here in Buenos Aires, a city of beauty and grace. We are very happy to be here. The excellent facilities placed at our disposal deserve our appreciation.

Let me take this opportunity to commend the Executive Secretary, Michael Cutajar and his colleagues in the Secretariat for the efficient organization of this fourth session of the Conference of the Parties.

**Madam President,**

At this point, I would like to express my profound sorrow and that of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the thousands who lost their lives, and the millions left homeless in Central America as a result of the recent hurricane. With this tragic loss, years of progress have simply and quickly been erased. We express our solidarity with the people of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, Costa Rica, and

Panama. This catastrophe is clear evidence of the vulnerability to the combination of poverty and extreme climatic changes.

**Madam President,**

Climate change increasingly poses unsurpassed challenges for sustainable development and for the survival of mankind. Tanzania looks forward to this Convention and its Kyoto Protocol as landmark agreements, which should forge a truly workable approach to save our globe. We are committed to cooperate with other nations to foster the objectives of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol for the benefit of this generation and the generations to come. Let me reaffirm the willingness of the people of the United Republic of Tanzania to engage in a true partnership in the course of addressing this global challenge.

**Madam President,**

Tanzania is a least developed country, almost entirely dependent on primary production, with a sizeable coastal zone critical for settlement and human welfare. Mitigation and adaptation measures will be necessary to reduce the vulnerability to the impacts of Climate Change and its associated stresses. Scientific, technological and financial resources, as well as information exchange requirements on the experiences required to meet this challenge will go beyond Tanzania's economic ability which is already overburdened by the scourge of poverty and foreign debt servicing. Tanzania's foreign debt amounts to US \$ 8 billion, and debt-servicing currently consumes a lion's share of our total GDP. The stakes arising from climate change are therefore high for Tanzania. Reduction of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is the relevant policy for a variety of our natural ecosystems, social and economic sectors.

In view of these life-threatening possibilities, Tanzania ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1996, and undertook an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks. We have to-date completed studies on vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation measures and are finalizing our National Action Plan. We look forward to more effective means of implementing the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol in a manner that would meet the special situation of a developing economy in the context of our sustainable development efforts.

It is clear why active leadership to present global warming has to come from the industrialized countries. This premise is so enshrined in the Convention. A strong commitment from these countries should accelerate progress on the threat of global warming. Industrialized countries would do well to reassure the international community that no goal posts are being moved and that there is trust and seriousness in the implementation and strengthening of their commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

**Madam President,**

As a least developed country, Tanzania is particularly interested in the Clean Development Mechanism whose purpose is to assist developing countries to achieve sustainable development and contribute to the ultimate objectives of the Convention, as well as developed countries in achieving compliance with their quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments. It is my hope that this session of the Conference of the Parties will offer guidance for the further elaboration of this Mechanism in consonance with its intended purpose.

**Madam President,**

Allow me to highlight what we consider to be critical elements of priority concern in the further elaboration of the Clean Development Mechanism. In order to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, it is important that the use of the Clean Development Mechanism by developed countries, should be supplemental to domestic actions in their own countries. Projects through this mechanism should be in compliance with the development priorities of host countries, ensuring complementarity between these projects and existing policies. Clear and differentiated rules must be transparently determined in favor of low-income countries for project eligibility, and special financing arrangements. The Clean Development Mechanism must be a mechanism for making environmentally sound technologies accessible to developing countries, and must contribute to poverty eradication and economic growth. It must take into account the lack of necessary infrastructure, weak private sector and capacity building in developing countries, in the development and implementation of identified projects. It is essential the role of operational entities for monitoring, verification and certification of emission

reductions is clearly defined. It is equally essential to define, unambiguously, the modalities for revenue and credit sharing of the proceeds between partners in the context of this Mechanism.

I cited earlier the large external debt of Tanzania, which is an impediment to the implementation of climate change measures. It is therefore imperative that debt relief measures be instituted as urgently as possible.

**Madam President,**

We are concerned with the little progress so far on issues that are very basic for the proper participation of developing countries in the global efforts to address Climate Change. This session of the Conference of the Parties must initiate concrete steps for the implementation of the Articles of the Convention relating to the specific needs and concerns of developing countries, arising from the adverse effects of climate change and the impact of response measures. Issues of financial resources and technology transfer as provided for in the Convention must receive due attention. New and additional financial resources need to be provided and mechanisms put in place to ensure technology transfer to developing countries as provided under the Convention. This will, at once, ensure sustainable development and provide a long-term solution to climate change through a cleaner path to development.

**Madam President,**

Today, more than ever before, we know that cross-sectoral environmental and development objectives can best be achieved through the adoption of policies, technologies and other measures that explicitly recognize the close inter-linkages among the environmental problems and basic human needs. As we engage in global efforts to address the global climate problem, it is important to bear in mind that developing countries will engage themselves increasingly only if their overriding priorities for economic and social development and poverty eradication are effectively addressed. Tanzania hopes that our deliberations on the implementation of the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol will be guided by this recognition.

**I thank you for your attention**