

KEY NOTE ADDRESS AT THE ECOSOCC SENSITIZATION AND
MOTIVATION CAMPAIGN BY
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IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION

DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA,

15 SEPTEMBER 2014

*Dr. Jinmi Adisa, Head of Mission of the ECOSOCC
Sensitization and Motivation Campaign to Tanzania,*

Mr. Nunga Tepani, Executive Director of TANGO,

Members of the ECOSOC Mission to Tanzania,

*Distinguished Delegates of the Tanzanian Civil Society
Organizations,*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me begin by welcoming all our honoured guests, Dr. Jinmi Adisa and his delegation, to our country. I would like to thank you most sincerely for having travelled to Tanzania to undertake this sensitization and motivation campaign of the ECOSOCC and I hope you will very much enjoy your short stay with us.

I would also like thank Mr. Tepani for having extended to me an invitation to give a keynote address to this august assembly.

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

When the Organization of the African Unity (OAU) was transformed into the African Union (AU) in July 2002, the aims and aspirations of the African leaders were to build a Union that was people-centred, people-oriented and people-driven. In this regard, the provisions of Articles 5 and 22 of the AU's Constitutive Act provides that ECOSOCC is the vehicle for building a strong partnership between governments and all segments of African civil society. Also, the Statute of ECOSOCC adopted in July 2004 defines it an advisory

organ of the AU composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States of the AU.

As an advisory organ, ECOSOCC is expected to do the following, among others:

- (i) Contribute, through advise, to the effective translation of the objectives, principles and policies of the Union into concrete action programmes, as well as the evaluation of these programmes;
- (ii) Undertake studies that are recommended or deemed necessary by all organs of the Union and submit such recommendations accordingly;
- (iii) Contribute to the popularization and popular participation to the vision and objectives of the Union, as well as sharing of best practices and expertise.

Distinguished delegates,

Tanzania has been consistent in its engagement with the ECOSOCC process from the time of its establishment to its subsequent progress. In this respect, having been party to the

process of its establishment, H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania launched the First Permanent General Assembly of the ECOSOCC in Dar es Salaam in September 2008 in his capacity as the Chairperson of the AU. Tanzania was also one of the countries that were well represented in the First Permanent General Assembly of the ECOSOCC.

One of the major tasks of the first Permanent General Assembly was to build ECOSOCC institutions, including the Cluster Committees and Secretariat. In this regard, it is pleasing to note that despite several challenges, the Assembly successfully completed this task by the time of the expiry of its mandate in September 2012.

The elections of the second Permanent General Assembly was to be held between September and November 2012. Unfortunately and despite several calls from the AU Commission, the elections could not take place due to insufficient number of candidates for the elections across the different countries and regions in the Union.

It is against this background that the last AU Summit in Malabo in June/July 2014 decided that the Commission should organize a continent-wide sensitization and Motivation Campaign in Member States across Africa that did not have sufficient candidates for elections into ECOSOCC. The Summit set a deadline of three months for the completion of the sensitization exercise and directed that elections must be conducted into ECOSOCC before the end of the year 2014. This is the reason behind your Team being our country today to carry out this sensitization and motivation campaign to Tanzanian civil society organizations.

Distinguished Guests,

Dear Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Tanzania attaches great importance to the goals and objectives of the African Union. Indeed, since our independence, we have played significant role in the achievements of the OAU/AU objectives. The visit by the AU Mission today is not because Tanzania was not represented in the first Permanent General Assembly but rather to give new impetus to as many Tanzanian

civil society organizations to take part in the forthcoming ECOSOCC election process in a manner that will surpass all expectations. Your presence in large numbers here is assurance that we will be able to achieve that goal and ensure that Tanzania continues to play significant role in the affairs of the AU. I therefore call on you all to listen closely, understand the process and take subsequent steps to register and participate appropriately.

To our guests, the AU delegation, I urge you to seize this opportunity to interact friendly and productively with your brothers and sisters in Tanzania in order to make them not only understand the election processes but also buy into ECOSOCC and make it their own so that the dream of African leaders of making the Union people-centred, people-oriented and people-driven could be realised.

I thank you