

**SPEECH OF HON. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, VICE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE OPENING  
OF FACE TO FACE MEETING OF THE AFRICA COMMUNITY OF  
PRACTICE OF CASH AND CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS  
(CoP), HELD AT NGURDOTO MAOUNTAIN LODGE, ARUSHA  
TANZANIA - MAY 16, 2016.**

Chairperson,

Hon. Minister of State, President's Office,

World Bank Country Director (Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi),

UNICEF Country Representative,

Permanent Secretary, President's Office,

Regional Commissioner for Arusha,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude for being accorded this rare opportunity to grace this gathering. As a country, we feel highly honored because the efforts the government makes to advance social protection for our poor people is recognized worldwide to such an extent that we are given the chance to host this kind of learning events. I am aware that delegates

from more than 60 countries are here; some coming for the first time in Tanzania. I take this opportunity to welcome you all, not only for this particular event, but also to explore the beauty of this country. Just nearby, you will be able to visit the beauty of Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park, Arusha National Park, Manyara National Park and Kilimanjaro National Park where also you will be able to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest in Africa. As well, the Clove Islands of Zanzibar has rich history and cultural background that have attracted many. Of course, there are many more touristic attractions in this country for you to choose from for you to pay a visit during your vacations. With warm heart, we say **KARIBU TANZANIA, THE LAND OF KILIMANJARO!** You will not regret visiting Tanzania.

Chairperson,

This forum comes at a time when the world is working tirelessly to address the aspects of poverty in a more concerted effort than ever before. Recently, the United Nations announced the Sustainable Development Goals which comes just after the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals which to some extent, some of its goals were met while others were not. It is worth noting that the Developing Countries such as ours are the ones that due to a number of factors struggled a lot to meet the targets in some areas without success. One of the areas that require much attention is on protecting the poorest section

of the population. These are the people living below the food poverty line and the transient poor who are just above the food poverty line. The difficulties this proportion of population is aggravated by slow economic recovery from the the global economic and financial crisis which devastated the world starting in the end of last decade that adversely impacted on our economic performance. That affected the ability of the country in investment, as well as the inflow of foreign investments.

Effects such as low level investments, dwindling of the tourism sector have tremendously affected employment creation and hence people's income in general. Not only has the people's income fallen but also governments' revenues have gone down to such an extent that it has affected the ability of governments' to support construction of public utilities to meet the requirements for rapid economic growth.

In such a situation, interventions are necessary to save lives of poor people in danger of food shortage. These are mainly the vulnerable individuals such as disabled, single parents, widows, youths and people infected or affected with HIV/AIDS.

Chairperson,

A number of initiatives have been going on in the country to address issues pertaining to social protection. In particular, the government's decision to establish the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) has given us an opportunity to learn how best we can make good interventions that will address the basic needs of poor people. For about 15 years the government through TASAF has embarked in supporting poor communities and households to improve social services and capacity of the people at the grassroot level to manage development initiatives during and after implementation has been enhanced. Community Driven Development approach has practically facilitated poor people to make decisions for their own development.

Chairperson,

The the government decided to implement the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) through TASAF III in order to reduce extreme poverty through increased income and consumption for the poorest. The main objectives of the Program are; i) to increase consumption of the extremely poor on a permanent basis; ii) to smoothen consumption during lean seasons and shocks; iii) to invest in human capital; iii) to strengthen link with income generating activities; and iv) to increase access to improved social services.

The design of PSSN was informed by the pilot Community Based Conditional Cash Transfer (CB CCT) that was implemented between 2008 and 2012 and international experiences from other countries that have been using the same approach for poverty reduction such as Mexico, Brazil and many more. That have been very rich experiences in creating a combination of interventions in order to ensure maximum positive impact to the intended beneficiary and ensuring large proportion get out of poverty. As well, poverty reduction is a concerted effort that requires many players to participate. That is why the design and implementation has involved the government, Development Partners, Local Governments at different levels and community at large.

Chairperson, todate, a total of 1.1 million households have been targeted and enrolled countrywide and they timely receive payment bimonthly. Such achievement has been made possible within a very short time. While initially the Program was designed to reach 275,000 households only, the decision to scale it up necessitated revising the target to nearly one million households for 18 months from November 2013 to March 2015. The decentralized nature of the government made it possible to achieve this target through phased approach, capacity building of local government staff to facilitate community based intervention and participation of the communities in targeting exercises. We are proud of our local staff and the communities

for their commitment and dedication to this task as those are the success factors.

On the other front, such a big Program requires an efficient feedback mechanism to ensure timely payment. The Program therefore focuses on building and implementing ICT as the backbone of operations to monitor compliances and to timely effect payment. TASAF has teamed up with Regional Administration and Local Government to implement connectivity and ensure that all local authorities are connected and data on implementation are available on time to facilitate operation. The Regional ICT staff provides support to Local Government staff so that network challenges are addressed and information is keyed in appropriately.

Chairperson,

The Program has developed robust impact evaluations and so far baseline data collection has been completed. Local Statistical bodies (National Bureau of Statistics in Tanzania Mainland and the Office of the Chief Government Statistics in Zanzibar). It is empirically difficult to tell if the Program is effective in reducing poverty until the studies are completed; however anecdotal evidence from the field indicates the extent to which beneficiary households improve their livelihoods within the short time they have been in the Program. In this respect, it is obvious that the Program has positive impact.

Evaluation will in the final analysis give us the extent of impact and areas which experience the highest level of the same.

### Chairperson

Our long terms policies such as Vision 2025 recognizes the importance of enabling the most marginalized groups and households for a better life. These have to be interpreted in the short-term plans and the government has worked out this issue in the National Social Protection Framework which is in the final stage of its development before is adopted. All these are intended to propel the country to realize the targets set in the long term plan.

The Fifth Phase Government is committed bringing about the true development of its people by ensuring that both local and foreign resources are used appropriately and reach the beneficiaries at the grassroot. We will pursue this by ensuring that our people are better served to counter the negative effects of poverty for the most vulnerable households. That is why this gathering is of most importance in learning the best methods that bring about positive results within reasonable period of time. Piloting could be of less importance if such learning opportunities are availed from time to time. What is important is to design interventions that better suit the environment of respective countries. In this respect, we stand to learn a lot from other countries that for quite some time have been successfully practicing social protection agenda.

**Chairperson,**

**It is my sincere hope that your deliberations will bear fruits for each individual participating in this meeting which in the long run will assist in shaping the policies and procedures to guide implementation on social protection. I therefore request all participants to pay keen attention to all subject matters that will be presented and to actively participate in all discussions so that the final outcomes of the forum can be of benefit to the countries represented here and beyond.**

**With these remarks, I declare this forum officially opened.**

**Thank you for your attention.**