

**Hon. Deputy President**

**Hon. First Lady, Zanele Mbeki**

**Scolastica Kimario – The UN. Resident Rep. Coordinator**

**Chairperson,**

**Fellow Participants**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**I am honored to be able to attend this very important gathering, whereby countries Endeavour to respond to Poverty and Social exclusion.**

**I am indeed grateful to have this opportunity to share with you the Tanzania's experience on Social Protection.**

**I must admit that during these three days, the Researchers have enlightened us a lot on the different concepts and systems of Social Protection and Poverty Reduction.**

**One common phenomenon that is undisputable is the critical need to develop mechanisms of providing social protection coverage to the poor and vulnerable groups by increasing their capacity and ability to deal with shocks associated with Poverty. The end result of social protection coverage being an assurance of a certain level of well-being for those who are poor, or at risk of falling into Poverty as a result of the impact of impoverishing factors.**

**Tanzania is a big country with a Total of 946,000 sq km with a Population of 33 million. The prevalence of poverty is about 50% of the population that is living below the poverty line.**

**Tanzania has a number of Social Security Schemes, (both formal and informal). These have limited coverage which serves only a portion of the population due to insufficient funds, legal restriction, administrative challenges and limited access caused by limited geographical coverage.**

**CHAIRPERSON,**

**As far as the Social Protection system is concerned, Tanzania does not have a formal Social Protection systems such as we have been discussing in the last two day, although we have difference policies which are geared towards social protection of its population.**

**Basically, the foundation has been built around social security in the formal sector which is more occupational related insurance meant for a formal working population.**

**An inventory of social security schemes shows that there are more than 14 schemes operating in Tanzania. Most of them are formal, government run schemes that cover a limited number of members. A few (2) are privately run and these are basically micro finance and insurance schemes that reach a small number of people. All in all the private providers are non profit organizations, often community based and are small in scale while the public institutions provide pensions and**

**related long terms benefits. Others provide health care benefits or financing mechanisms.**

**Of critical here, is that, the population covered by the social security schemes is in the formal employment with regular monthly salaries only. However, Tanzania is currently undertaking reforms on its social security schemes to accommodate the informal sector of the population.**

**The formal sector schemes in Tanzania covers about 691,404 long term beneficiaries which is only 2% of the entire population and 3.9% of the total labors force. This social security approach seems to be highly insufficient in the country like Tanzania where a large percentage of the population is outside the formal sector and lives below the nation poverty line.**

**Please Note that what we have in Tanzania is the Social Security Schemes AND NOT Social Protection. Hence, Tanzania is in a dire need of a Social protection approach which is more inclusive and broader than social security per se.**

**One may what to ask, as to how do we Cope with the Poor and the Vulnerable section of our population.**

**ONE is that we have a department of Social Welfare which deals with the OLD, THE DISABLED AND THE VULNERABLE CHILDREN. (These services provided here, are not a right but discretionary) The**

**Government and the Development Partners, through the NGO, the Missionaries have by and large been addressing these issues which have now been seen to be not sustainable due to the magnitude and complexities of the problems caused by HIV/AIDS pandemic and the increase in the scales of Poverty. Tanzania, as in the case in many African countries, is witnessing the HIV/AIDS patients, orphans and their dependants in urgent need help.**

**In order to cover for the majority of these vulnerable and insecure population, the Government is now in the process of developing a National Social Protection Framework. This will guide measures and interventions aimed at addressing needs of the extremely vulnerable groups and the poor in general.**

**The aim of the framework is to harmonize implementation of programs, increase the scale of the most cost effective programs and improve joint monitoring and evaluation of the progress of Social Protection in Tanzania. The framework is further expected to stimulate and guide formulation of interventions both from formal and informal sectors geared to social protection. Hence once it becomes operational, the status of social protection will be enhanced to cover majority of the people who are vulnerable and insecure in both rural and urban areas.**

**To date, however, we have policies which are pro-social protection. They include free primary education for all eligible children, subsidized Secondary Education, free medical services to expectant mother, the**

**under five children and the elders who are above 65. Other such policies which are pro-poor as below:**

- **The Health Policy (1997)**
- **Education Policy**
- **Agriculture and Livestock Policy (1997)**
- **Child and Development Policy (1992)**
- **Environment Policy (1997)**
- **Food and Nutrition Policy in Tanzania**
- **National Ageing Policy (2003)**
- **Disabled People Development Policy (2004)**
- **National Policy for Youth Development**
- **National Employment Policy (1998-2000 - Public Service**
- **Land Policies – including human settlement development policy**
- **National Social Security Policy**
- **Community Development Policy**
- **Gender and Development Policy**

**Chairperson,**

**It is worth mentioning here that, Tanzania is implementing a NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR GROWTH AND POVERTY REDUCTION, which is a yardstick in the implementation of all its programs in aligning and coordinating the different sectors of the Government.**

**IN CLOSING THESE FEW COMMENTS ON TANZANIA, Let me say that in contrast to what the Researchers have been submitted here on Chile, Argentine, Brasilia and even on South Africa.**

**The large majority of the Tanzanian Population is Rural based who fortunately, still believe in self-reliance and largely practices the traditional social protection system, save for the evils of HIV/AIDS which reduces the respective labour force in the communities. Moreover, Tanzanians have never been displaced from their land and more efforts are geared towards Investing in the poor, through the informal sector which employs a big number of our people. Farming in Tanzania remains to be the backbone of its economy.**

**Tanzania believes that part of the poverty situation is caused by the under-utilization of our Natural Resources due to lack of appropriate technology and financial resources. Hence as short term measure, we provide empowerment loans to the informal sector so that we can graduate the informal sector into SMEs. The Tanzania population is able and willing to work. The crusade is on the creation of more jobs and investing on human capital.**

**The Long term measure is that of free education, subsidized higher education, establishment of more Universities and tertiary colleges, as education if the key to better life.**

**However, these empowerment initiatives are complimented with further plans of having a Formal Social Protection System which will give the**

**vulnerable population a better and sustainable system. So far the Government has not been able to come up with a formal Social Protection System in form of giving cash transfer, Grants, or even handouts to the poor. This is mainly due to the country's BUDGET Constraints. The budget is mainly donor dependent.**

**I THANK U FOR LISTENING**