

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. JAKAYA MRISHO
KIKWETE ON THE OCCASION OF THE AWARD OF AN HONORARY DEGREE
OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT (HONORIS CAUSA) OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF
TANZANIA 21 JANUARY 2016, DAR ES SALAAM.**

Hon. Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Madame Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania;

Your Excellency Former President Dr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi;

Honorable Retired Vice Presidents and Prime Ministers Hon. Dr. John Samuel Malecela, and Hon. Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda;

Prof. Chae Hong Suh, President of the Korea University and fellow awardee;

Prof. Elifas Bisanda, Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania;

Prof. Samuel Wangwe, Chairman of the University Council;

Distinguished Members of the Convocation;

Members of the Academic Staff;

Dear Students;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to express my gratitude to you Madame Chancellor and through you to the Open University community for your decision to honor me with an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters in International Cooperation and Development. I also thank you for the kind words that you and the University community have said about me and my contribution to the social-political and economic development of our dear country. You may agree with me that the oration

was powerful! At times I could not help but wonder whether I am the one being referred to. I am deeply touched and I sincerely appreciate it.

Acceptance of the Award

Madame Chancellor;

I accept this award with a deep sense of humility. Let me admit that such achievements could not be an outcome of a one-man effort. It is rather the outcome of collective efforts of the people of Tanzania, my fellow leaders, the many dedicated men and women who worked in my administration and Tanzania's partners and friends. Also, I was personally lucky to have been treading on well bitten pathways by my predecessors. It is on behalf of all of these people that I accept this award. Allow me, therefore, to dedicate it to them whose dedicated efforts and service to our country under my leadership has earned me the recognition hence this award.

I am pleased to join the ranks of other recipients of this honor among whom are such distinguished and world famous statesmen like the late Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the founding father of the first President of the United Republic of Tanzania; the late Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the first President of the New South Africa; Former President H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi and H.E. Former President Benjamin William Mkapa. It is also a pleasure for me to have present in this audience retired President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, and distinguished Former Vice Presidents and Prime Ministers who are here as members of Alumni Association of the Open University Tanzania by virtue of their having received honorary degrees from the OUT.

Allow me also to congratulate Professor Chae Hong Suh, President of the Chosun University of Korea for having been awarded an Honorary Degree today. It is an honor very deserving of him. Professor Chae is a man of many accomplishments and honor. I am pleased to see that Professor Chae associates

himself with the Open University of Tanzania. I believe, by his joining this great family of alumni of this university he will take the collaboration between OUT and the Chosun University to greater heights. I feel privileged and happy to share this podium with such a distinguished scholar today.

Tribute to the Open University of Tanzania

Madam Chancellor,

I find it fair to salute you, the University Council, the Senate and Staff of the Open University of Tanzania for the great strides this University has made so far. OUT has continued to grow in size and weight within the East Africa region and beyond. For us who saw this University when it started to enroll students in 1994, are pleasantly amazed with the momentous progress that has taken place. I am told there are now **5** Faculties, **2** Institutes and **30** Regional Centers. There are, also, **10** Coordinating Centers, 5 of which are outside the country in Kenya (**2**), Rwanda, Namibia and Uganda. Surely, a lot of ground has been covered and more better things are yet to unfold. I have no doubt, the future of this University is very promising, bright and limitless. I pray for the success of all you plan to accomplish. As a new alumnus of this University, I am pledging to work with you in any way you think I can be useful.

Importance of International Cooperation for Development

Madame Chancellor;

I am aware that protocol and etiquettes of this award demands that I should say a few words of acknowledgement and acceptance. It is a price which I am happy and ready to pay. After retiring from office on November 5. 2015, I thought I was done with making speeches. As you know I have joined my kith and kin at my home village doing what rural people do: farming and livestock keeping. No speechifying. I want to assure you that there is life after the Presidency.

Because you have awarded me an Honorary PhD in International Cooperation and Development, I have chosen to share with you some of my reflections on this important foreign policy matter. I will try to use this opportunity to share with you some of my own experience and recollections of what international cooperation can do to the development of a country.

International cooperation is a broad concept. I dread the idea of engaging into the philosophical part of it, for it does not change the very fact that it exists. International cooperation simply entails collaboration and partnerships which have evolved and gained prominence after the cold war. It involves a myriad of actors and shapes important events and actions in the world.

International cooperation and development have become particularly important in the post-cold war era. The end of the cold war and emergence of the information and communication technological revolution are attributed to the increasing role of international cooperation to the levels that have never seen before. The ICT revolution has made it possible to globalize people, opportunities, threats, challenges and even emotions. It has made isolation extremely difficult and costly. Autarky is no longer the way. We now see the private sector, civil society, media and influential individuals and groups sharing power with state actors. Out of this complex web of interaction, there has been changes in the way the world has been governed by bringing in new norms and new rules. As such, complex threats and challenges have emerged that require international cooperation and collaboration to address them.

The State of the World

Madame Chancellor;

When we make sense of the world we live in today, it is easy to appreciate the degree and magnitude of its complexity. By doing so, it also helps to appreciate the

overwhelming challenge that countries particularly developing countries, face in such complexity. Today **37** of the world's **100** largest economies are corporations, not states, and less than **1 percent** of banks control **40 percent** of global business. Least to say that major international philanthropies have budgets larger than many of the developing nations' budgets. According to the report released by Oxfam three days ago, the richest **1 percent** now have as much wealth as the rest of the world combined. There is no way you can ignore to engage these actors whose action and inactions can make or break the world.

Madame Chancellor;

To further increase our imagination, it is important to look at how challenges and threats have become globalized to the extent that there is no longer a problem we can afford to call a distant problem. Geography is no longer an excuse good enough for inaction. The Ebola epidemic left with us a valuable lesson in this regard. The disease outbreak which mainly affected the **three** countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in West Africa and claimed **11,000** lives, had its impact felt to the rest of Africa and the rest of the world. We all suffered in one way or the other regardless of how close or distant our countries were. Studies indicated that while the economic cost of Ebola for the **three** most affected countries is estimated at **2.2 billion US \$** which is over **16 percent** of the collective GDP of these countries, the overall economic cost for the wider West Africa region is estimated at **1 billion US \$**.

The rest of Africa, Tanzania included have suffered from the drop in tourist arrivals for fear of Ebola. In many ways this was very much a function of lack of proper knowledge about Africa and reckless reporting about the disease by international media which painted a picture as if the whole of Africa was affected by the disease. Consequently, international airlines suspended flights to Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and neighboring countries. Some countries issued travel advisories which impacted negatively to travel and tourism in Africa. I had to seize

the opportunity of my address to the 70th United Nations General Assembly last year to remind the world that '*Africa is a continent made up of 54 countries, and not a Country made up of 54 provinces or states*'. Ebola was contained when the world join hands and worked together in a coordinated manner. But, that tells a lot about international cooperation.

Madame Chancellor;

I have shared the two anecdotes to underscore the inevitability of international cooperation in addressing the challenges of today be it in epidemics, transnational crime, terrorism, money laundering, poverty eradication, fight against hunger, development and governance. All these require cooperation and collaboration of a wide range of actors beyond nation states. International cooperation presents both opportunities and challenge to countries and to the world depending on how best we make use of it. Arguably, Tanzania has benefitted immensely through international cooperation in our socio economic development endeavors. We were able to achieve a number of the good things we are talking about, thanks in many ways to international cooperation.

International Cooperation in the Context of Tanzania Foreign Policy

Madame Chancellor;

Since independence, one of the hallmarks of Tanzania Foreign Policy has been embracing and advancing international cooperation as a strategy to further the socio economic development of our country. It reflects our country's realization of the changing international architecture after the end of cold war. I am glad to have served as Foreign Minister of my country during that crucial time in the history of our foreign policy. I feel privileged to have had the rare opportunity to contribute to redefining our foreign policy under the able leadership and guidance of an

accomplished diplomat and statesman His Excellency Benjamin William Mkapa, then President of our dear country.

Let me hasten to say that there has been no change with regards to the main tenets of Tanzania's foreign policy, although the implementation modalities and strategies were slightly re-arranged. In essence the principles of the foreign policy remained: safeguarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence; defense of freedom, justice, human rights, equality and democracy; promotion of good neighborliness and good relations with all nations in the world; supporting the liberation of Africa and promoting African Unity; promotion of deeper economic cooperation and regional integration in Africa; promotion of South-South Cooperation; non-alignment and, support for the United Nations in its search for international peace, security and development.

The adoption of the policy of economic diplomacy was the explicit new strategy of advancing Tanzania's economic interests in the realm of international cooperation. In this regard, special attention was given to promoting good relations and partnerships with our bilateral donors, multilateral institutions like the United Nations, World Bank, IMF, AfDB, the European Union, the Global Fund, Global Alliance for Vaccine Initiative (GAVI), as well as private foundations like the Bill and Melinda Gates, the Clinton Foundation and many others.

The Contribution of International Cooperation to Tanzania Socio-Economic Development

Madame Chancellor;

These partnerships and collaborations have helped to buttress Tanzania's development endeavors with demonstrable outcomes. Examples are many and it will need days to enumerate each and everything in every sector or aspects of our

lives. However, it is important to underscore the fact that it is the combination of local efforts and cooperation from international partners which has made it possible for things be so successful. It has been possible for countries like ours to overcome our capacity limitations to address our development challenges. Relying on government resources and own capacity alone, may have taken us longer to marshal the requisite resources and capacity to get to where we are today. With international cooperation, it has been possible to bridge this gap within a short while. It is for this reason that my government opted to cooperate with all bilateral donors, international and regional financial institutions and organizations as well as international private sector and people of goodwill who were ready to work with us to address the teething problems we were confronted with.

International Cooperation at Regional Level

Madame Chancellor;

International cooperation is also crucial at the regional and continental level. At the regional level it helps to build collaboration that is required to address social economic and security challenges that are beyond ability of one state to solve. It is a statement of fact that Tanzania stands to benefit more by coming together with other countries in the regional economic groupings than standing alone. It is in this regard that we tirelessly worked for the revival of the East Africa cooperation and integration agenda. I am proud to have been part of the efforts which created the Tripartite Commission of the East African Cooperation in March 30th,1996 and the East Africa Community in November 30th,1999. To date the EAC has grown into the formidable regional economic community it is today. I also feel glad to have played part in the transformation of SADC. I firmly believe Tanzania's economic future lies in these two institutions.

Besides that, issues of terrorism, transnational crimes, human trafficking and piracy can best be tackled at regional level through international cooperation. We

stand witness about how the cooperation within the region and with international actors has helped in the fight against piracy in the Indian Ocean. Today, Tanzania's territorial waters are safe and ships can sail and dock safely in our ports. This, therefore allows our ports to contribute to the growth of economy of our country and neighbors. The same can be said on the fight against illegal trade in wildlife products. Thanks to international cooperation Tanzania has witnessed significant reduction in the incidences of elephant poaching.

International Cooperation at Continental Level

Madame Chancellor;

Another good example of why international cooperation is critical with regards to addressing some major global issues like globalization, climate change and others. Take climate change for example, Africa contributes less than **3 percent** of the greenhouse gases but it is the continent which suffers the most from climate change. It is lack of adequate technical, technological and financial capacity for adaptation and mitigation which is to blame for our predicament. Consequently, Africa is seriously threatened in many ways. The future of agriculture and food security in the continent looks somewhat precarious. It is estimated that in Sub Saharan Africa, there has been, already, a **19 percent** loss in maize yields and **68 percent loss** in the yield of beans. It is further projected that by 2020 the yields in some countries will fall by **50 percent** by 2020 and further to **90 percent** by year 2100.

For sure, the ability to deal with this threat is beyond Africa's ability to solve alone. Developed countries must help. Moreover, being the least responsible for carbon emissions but suffering the most from climate change, it is incumbent upon large carbon emitting nations to assist Africa bear the cost of adaptation and mitigation. Africa needs between 7 to **15 billion US\$** annually by 2020 for adaptation and about **USD 52-68 billion** per year by 2030 to bring Africa on the low-carbon growth path. Certainly, Africa cannot afford these staggering financial resources.

International cooperation is required to confront this daunting global challenge of our time.

Challenges of International Cooperation

Madame Chancellor;

I have spoken much about the importance and indispensability of the international cooperation in the world we live in today. I have highlighted how it has helped us to address some of our development challenges and needs. I have underscored how it has been useful in advancing our interests at regional, continental and international levels. It is important to stress that all is not rosy and easy and that international cooperation is never a panacea of resolving all of our problems, neither is it a substitute of our own efforts.

International cooperation is not value free and the dangers of being used to further interests of the partners is always there. Some states may use it to do things which infringe on policy space of other countries and as a tool of coercion. It, therefore, requires a great deal of diplomatic acumen, negotiations, tradeoffs and strategy to harness its advantage and minimize its costs to country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. That is the work of our diplomats and government officials to make sure that international cooperation works in our favor. It is the very essence as to why governments and diplomats are there.

Role of the Universities

Madame Chancellor;

Universities have an important role to play in taking advantage of the opportunities offered by international cooperation. Some Universities and think-tank institutions elsewhere have been taking advantage of it to create cross border collaboration in areas of research and development. They have taken a driver's seat in shaping the agenda for international cooperation and international development.

Our universities in Africa have been lagging behind. It is time they changed for their own sake.

I am glad that this University has tried and the presence of Prof Chae in our midst is testimony that you are taking steps in a right direction. May I encourage you to spread your wings further. Open up and reach out to other universities in the world. Bring in more international students and researchers to work with you. It will help you in reducing the resource gaps that you face. The tuition fees and government budget allocations alone cannot run your University. I know of universities out there with research and development budget bigger than the whole budget our government allocates for research and development in our country. But they source these resources from the private sector who benefit from the work they do in their research and development.

International partnership and collaboration also helps to forge better understanding of the world. You ought to be internationalist to be relevant in today's globalized world. The world we live in and that to come has no place for parochial and silos kind of mentality. Luckily, for this University, the Chancellor, as the Former Foreign Minister and Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations has the capacity to open many doors to the world. Make good use of her.

Conclusion

Madame Chancellor,

I have not said all that needs to be said about international cooperation and development. I only talked about some salient issues. I believe someone else will take up from what I have not talked about. Before I conclude, let me say sincerely that it will be remiss of me if I will not mention and thank in a special way my lovely wife Mama Salma Kikwete and my family. I have been able to receive this award

because of their endless support and much sacrifice. They allowed and gave me enough time to work for our country. To them I say thank you.

Last but not least, thank you Madame Chancellor, Members of the faculty, academic staff, students and alumni for accepting me unconditionally into this large family. You have brought an excitement to my retirement life.

With these many words, I thank you for your kind attention.