



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania  
to the United Nations**

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**STATEMENT BY MRS. JOYCE C. KAFANABO, CHARGE  
D'AFFAIRES, a.i. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEMS 44 (INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED  
IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOMES  
OF THE MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND  
SUMMITS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS)  
AND 107 (FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE  
MILLENNIUM SUMMIT) FOR THE DEBATE ON  
RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT**

**TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2009**

**201 East 42nd Street, Room 1700, New York, New York 10017  
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**STATEMENT BY MS. JOYCE C. KAFANABO, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I.  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS 44 (INTERGRATED AND COORDINATED  
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**Mr. President,**

It is now almost four years since our Heads of State and Government, at the 2005 Summit, stressed the need for the General Assembly to continue to consider the concept of the responsibility to protect. It is therefore appropriate that we take up the challenge. My delegation thus thanks you for organizing this debate and also thanks the Secretary General for the presentation of his report on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2009.

We welcome the report of the Secretary General entitled "Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: Report of the Secretary-General", as provided in document A/63/677. We believe that the report forms a good basis for our deliberations on this issue. We also believe that the Secretary General recommendations contained in the report warrant our serious considerations. We further concur with the Secretary General that our task is not to reinterpret nor negotiate the conclusions of the World Summit. It is our hope therefore that in this debate we will discuss the way forward on how to implement the commitments of our leaders as stipulated in paragraphs 139 and 140. These commitments are clearly a response to historic, collective failures to save human lives. The huge loss of lives that we witnessed in Rwanda and elsewhere should not be allowed to repeat.

**Mr. President,**

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has always been in the forefront in the maintenance of peace and security and has played key roles in negotiating peace settlements in the African Region, particularly in the sub-regions of the Great Lakes and of the Southern Africa. The participation of Tanzania in the maintenance of peace and security is derived from the conviction that there can be no peace in our country when there is instability in the neighboring states. When there is instability it is the people who bear the burden. Governments have thus the primary responsibility to protect their own people and when governments fail or are unable to offer such protection, we should

have a collective responsibility to protect humanity. Governments must ensure respect for the rule of law, human rights and democracy, this is responsible sovereignty.

**Mr. President,**

We need to respect sovereignty, but at the same time we cannot remain indifferent to gross human rights violations. States must be held accountable to practice responsible sovereignty that calls for respect of universal values and maintenance of peace and security. In this regard I wish to quote the words of our former President during the first International Conference of the Great Lakes Region I quote:

*“In the aftermath of the genocide in Rwanda, and in light of the massive influx of refugees in the Great Lakes Region, it is inevitable to conclude that the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of a state can no longer find unqualified, absolute legitimacy. The possibility for intervention must be placed on the table as part of the international strategy for durable peace and security”.*

In this regard we need to emulate the position of the African Union which has moved from non-interference in the internal affairs of a Member State to that of non-indifference.

**Mr. President,**

Our stance in responsibility to protect population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is unwavering. The former President of Tanzania H.E. Benjamin Mkapa explained very well our position at the First International Conference on Great Lakes where he had the following to say on the issue, I quote

*“States must firmly be placed on notice that the humanity we share demands that we should collectively have an interest in its promotion as well as its protection. Governments must first be held responsible for the life and welfare of their people. But, there must also be common agreed rules and benchmarks that could trigger collective actions through our regional organizations and the United Nations against governments that commit unacceptable human rights abuses or threaten regional peace and security. We thus welcome the affirmation by the world leaders on the responsibility to protect civilians from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing.”*

**Mr. President,**

Responsibility to Protect is not a substitute for mechanisms and instruments that are already in place, but rather complement them in a collective manner. The 2005 Summit outcome document clearly stipulates the responsibility to protect is only in respect to genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. We would wish that this focus on R2P be maintained, there should be no attempt at present to include other elements.

As we discuss the implementation of R2P we should maintain the parameters and the caveats that are contained in paragraphs 138 and 139. The challenge that we have before us is how do we develop a common understanding, agreed rules and benchmarks? We believe that the United Nations is rightly placed to discuss the issue further so that we arrive at a consensus on the implementation of R2P. It is also equally important that regional organizations become part of the equation as we discuss the elements for R2P and its implementation.

**Mr. President,**

This debate is the beginning of a process in arriving at a consensus on the issue of R2P. The three pillars that the Secretary General has expressed in his report should be our starting point in discussing how we implement R2P. We expect that we will continue with this debate during the 64<sup>th</sup> session and in this regard encourage the Secretary General to prepare a report that would take into account this session's deliberations as well as regional experiences.

**I thank you.**