

**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCE DR. MOHAMMED
GHARIB BILAL, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE SECOND
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
NUTRITION(ICN2), ROME - ITALY,
19th NOVEMBER 2014.**

Excellencies Heads of State and Government;

Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation;

UN Secretary General;

**Excellencies High Commissioners,
Ambassadors and Other Members of the
Diplomatic Corps;**

Heads of United Nations System;

Distinguished Participants;

Ladies and Gentleman

I am delighted to be among you today to discuss the nutrition agenda which is critical and important in our lives today. We all know that, food insecurity, malnutrition and hunger are among major challenges globally. In

addressing them, the first International Conference on Nutrition (ICN1) convened here in Rome in 1992. We adopted the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition and declared that we should eradicate hunger and reduce all forms of malnutrition before the next millennium. As we gather today, we must ask ourselves how far we have achieved those objectives of the ICN1.

Distinguished Participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In Africa today, 239 million are living with hunger with nearly 20 million added in the last decade. These growing numbers is a clear indication that our commitments made in 1992 have not been met. In the last decade, tackling extreme poverty and hunger were placed at the top of the MDG agenda. Agriculture as the mainstay of most African economies underpins food security and poverty eradication efforts. Despite this fact, agriculture was never an explicit goal in the MDG framework and therefore most African countries will not achieve MDG 1 by 2015.

Mr. Chairman;

Tanzania continues to grapple with triple challenges of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. These challenges have been exacerbated further by resource constraints and climate change. Cases of under nutrition in Tanzania are more prevalent among children under the age of five. This group suffers from different forms of under nutrition such as anemia, stunting, iron deficiency, Vitamin 'A' and underweight. Our women have not been spared either from this burden, especially women of childbearing age. Cases of anemia, Vitamin, iodine deficiency, and chronic energy are among the challenges facing this group.

Indeed, economic losses emanating from malnutrition are high. Despite mortalities in women and children contributed malnutrition, on the other hand Vitamin and mineral deficiencies alone cost Tanzania about US\$ 390 million in lost revenue each year which is equivalent to 2.65 percent of GDP.

Mr. Chairman;

The situation I have described above does not of course mean that significant strides have not been made to address nutrition related aspects. Our Government has successfully embarked in mandatory food fortification programs and currently it is mandatory to fortify wheat and maize flour and edible oils. In 2013, over 246 thousand metric tons of wheat and 32 thousand metric tons of oil were fortified. Accordingly, it is estimated that 10 million people are using fortified flour and 4 million are using fortified cooking oil.

Tanzania is also in the process of rolling out Nutrition sensitive actions with high impact, including those focusing reduction of micronutrient deficiencies and water sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Mr. Chairman;

Tanzania wishes to acknowledge the unprecedented support it has been receiving from the United States of

America through USAID; the Republic of Ireland; Canada; DFID; the UN Organizations: namely UNICEF, WHO, WFP, IFAD, FAO, World Bank, and all other development partners.

Mr. Chairman;

Nutrition has been recognized and included in the recently adopted SDGs as a stand-alone goal. I am further informed that the SDGs will be an input to the on-going discussions and negotiations on the establishment of the post 2015 development agenda that will replace the MDGs after 2015. I strongly urge all states; UN system and non-state actors present here to ensure that the goal on nutrition is retained.

Mr. Chairman; Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the end of this Conference, we will again adopt Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action. It is my strong believe that we will live upon our commitments

and be able to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and poverty. We have made ambitious and achievable commitments now and before. Therefore, we have now to cultivate the will and culture of full implementation of the many commitments we have made so far. I believe our next gathering will not be on speeches lamenting on our failures in addressing malnutrition, poverty and hunger but will be of triumph and celebration on how we have conquered these challenges.

I thank you for your kind attention!