



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

**SPEECH BY H.E. DR. PHILIP ISDOR MPANGO, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA DURING OPENING OF THE 7TH AFRICAN SOCIAL
PARTNERS SUMMIT**

**JULIUS NYERERE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE (JNICC)
07TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

- ***Hon. Prof. Joyce Ndalichako, (MP) Minister of State in Prime Minister's – Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities);***
- ***Mr. Roberto Suárez Santos, Secretary General - International Organization of Employers-IOE;***
- ***Mr. Eric Mwezi Manzi, Deputy Secretary General of the International Trade Union Confederation Africa (ITUC);***
- ***Ms. Fanfan Rwanyindo Kayirangwa, Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa, International Labour Organization (ILO);***
- ***Ms. Saida Neghza, President, Business Africa Employers' Confederation;***
- ***Mr. Oscar Mgaya, the Chairperson of ATE, and ATE Members of the Management Board;***
- ***Mr. Tumaini Nyamuhokya, President of TUCTA;***
- ***Distinguished Delegates, Representatives from International Organizations from Tanzania, and outside Tanzania;***
- ***Employers and Trade Unions representatives;***
- ***Distinguished Social Partners, Invited guests, Members of the Media Fraternity;***
- ***Ladies, and gentlemen.***

It is an honor to be part of the opening ceremony of this important summit. I sincerely thank Honourable Prof. Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office – Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities, for bestowing me with the privilege to officiate the 7th Africa Social Partners Summit. I convey to you cordial greetings from H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. H.E. appreciates the International Organization of Employers (IOE) choice of Tanzania as the host country for this important Summit. H.E. extends a proudly Tanzanian welcome to all our guests from outside Tanzania. KARIBUNI SANA.

Distinguished delegates, ladies, and gentlemen;

Africa's labour market is characterized by existence of a large informal sector, predominance of the agriculture sector in the economy, low production and productivity as well as stubborn youth unemployment. In the case of Tanzania the informal sector is estimated at 47% of GDP. Agriculture's share of GDP is 26% dominated by smallholder farmers who depend on God-given rains. Farm-input use

is low notably fertilizers and high yield seeds. Unemployment rate is about 12% of GDP, with the formal sector unable to absorb the majority of school and college graduates produced each year. Africa's employment challenges have been exacerbated by the global climate crisis, devastating impacts of raging conflicts in the region, spillover effects of geopolitical tensions in several parts of the world, as well as debilitating effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. Therefore, employment creation and strategies that promote inclusive growth and development have become key priorities of all African Governments.

Distinguished delegates;

In the light of the foregoing employment creation challenges facing our continent, the African Social Partners Summit has been an important platform for stakeholders to discuss priorities, best practices and effective strategies for job creation. Consequently, the summits have provided insights and guidelines to foster employment opportunities across Africa. It is my conviction that the 7th African Social Partners Summit, will pursue this noble course, to take stock of the employment creation in Africa, highlight the priorities and showcase exemplary models and strategies of employment creation.

Distinguished delegates;

In Tanzania, available data indicate that unemployment rate stands at 9%. It is also estimated that 800,000 young people graduate each year from our schools and colleges but the formal sector is only able to absorb 40,000. To address this youth employment challenge, the Government has set a target to create 7 million job opportunities between 2020 and 2025. The envisages strategies to realise this target include: (i) regulatory reforms to improve the business environment in order to spur and create more jobs. (ii) establishment of special economic zones in all district councils in the country with requisite infrastructure for women, youth and people with special needs to engage in productive activities; (iii) training and linking the youth with institutions that provide affordable loans. An example include a program called Building a Better Tomorrow: Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) and the Livestock Sector Building Better Tomorrow – Live (BBT-Live) for beef production and aquaculture; (iv) establishment of designated centres where the youths are be able to learn and acquire practical skills that will enable them to engage in production; (v) setting aside 10% of own source revenue of each district councils for women, youths and people with special needs; and (vi) strengthening of labour market and capital information systems for ease of access by the youths.

Distinguished delegates;

Before I leave this podium, I would like to challenge this summit to, among others explore two contemporary issues that I believe are important for employment creation challenge we face today.

First, is artificial intelligence as it affects job creation. In this era of technological advancement, it can be expected that job creation will be affected by AI. One strand of thought is that AI will lead to significant reduction of available jobs. However, another strand of thought is that the use of AI can create new jobs especially those that require technical skills. What is important therefore, is that Africa should endeavour to upskill and embrace technology to enhance productivity instead of seeing technology as a threat to job security. For example, the advent of the computer age has given rise to high quality jobs such as computer scientists, programmers, computer engineers, engineering designers and so on. Even though some low-quality jobs such as typists and data entry clerks were displaced by modern technology. As such, I am of the view that AI can also translate into an opportunity to re-ignite productivity, income and economic growth in our continent. The advent of AI also implies that Governments and the Private sector in the African continent need to equip their employees with more advanced technological skills to enable them fit in the new job market. New training and career development intervention are necessary to reposition employees for labour market demands of the future. This also suggests that some kind of analysis is necessary to identify sectors that are likely to see a significant number of employment opportunities lost and sectors where AI will augment high skill jobs. One particular area where AI is likely to help bolster job creation is agricultural research targeted at improving high yields seed varieties and drought resistant seeds which will spur higher productivity and future jobs. I think these are issues that need attention of this summit.

The Second issue is, climate change both as an underlying risk and an opportunity for job creation initiative in the continent. We all bear witnesses of how climate change has adversely affected our countries, resulting into excessive rainfall, extreme heat, and detrimental impacts on both life and economic activities. Climate change on the other hand has a number of opportunities – for instance in the process of mitigating the effects, there are jobs that are created as farmers resort to regenerative agriculture, organic farming and exploration and development of seeds and pastures for pastoral communities. Similarly, alongside the green revolution, there are job opportunities created through prioritization of clean energy particularly solar, geothermal, wind and hydro. It is therefore important for this Summit to deliberate on urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts. This requires integrated approaches geared at safeguarding livelihoods of communities and enhancing environmental protection against effects of climate change.

5.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Distinguished delegates, ladies, and gentlemen;

Tackling challenges related to job creation requires inclusive, transformative and integrated approaches. Therefore, there is an urgent need to foster collaboration

among all stakeholders. We need to develop a platform for action that transcends sectoral boundaries, and unites government agencies, domestic partners, and external allies, including the private sector.

I once again commend the organisers for a well organised summit. I sincerely hope that the Summit will accomplish its objectives by providing valuable guidelines, documents, and materials to equip stakeholders with the necessary skills to help create employment opportunities in Africa. I reiterate Tanzania's commitment to collaborate and work with all stakeholders, particularly employers, employees, business persons and others, to address various social issues, especially those related to employment and work. I request our development partners to join us to address employment challenges in the region.

With these remarks, I have the honour to declare the 7th African Social Partners Summit officially opened. I wish you fruitful deliberations.

I Thank you.