

**SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA, HONORABLE FREDERICK SUMAYE (MP), AT
THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SECOND AFRICAN PEACE THROUGH
TOURISM CONFERENCE HELD AT GOLDEN TULIP
HOTEL, DAR ES SALAAM ON DECEMBER 8TH 2003.**

The Minister for Trade, industry, Marketing and Tourism – Revolutionary
Government of Zanzibar

Honourable Mohamed Aboud Mohamed,

Honourable Valli Moosa – Minister for Tourism and Environment – Republic of
South Africa,
Your Excellency, Dr. Dawid de Villiers, Deputy Secretary General

World Tourism Organization,

The President of International Institute for Peace through Tourism,

Mr. Louis D'Amore,

Honourable Ministers,

Your Excellencies Religious Leaders, Ambassadors and high Commissioners,
Members of International Organisations

Distinguished Guests

Conference Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to officiate the opening of this important Conference, the first of its kind to be hosted by our country. We are particularly pleased to be entrusted with hosting the *Second African Peace through Tourism Conference* where high-level government leaders, officials and distinguished personalities will deliberate on pertinent issues of peace and tourism in Africa. May I take this opportunity on behalf of the people and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, to welcome you all to Dar es Salaam. I wish to assure you that in Tanzania you will enjoy peace and security and at the same time you can enjoy the abundance of natural tourist attractions. I welcome you all.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, this conference is being held at the most opportune moment, when peace is on the top list of agenda for many nations individually, in regional groupings and the entire international community. We are all witnesses of the direct and indirect negative effects of disturbed peace in many areas irrespective of their state of development. Terrorist attacks in various parts of the world have taken toll on the lives of innocent people in many parts of the world. When terrorist attacks happen in Africa, they worsen the already negative publicity about Africa. But even when they happened in other parts of the developed world, Africa was still considered as the very risky sport, and such publicity and warnings adversely affect tourists' inflow and even investments inflow into Africa. Hence any peace instability affects more the economy of the poor countries than those of rich nations.

Apart from the internationally disturbed peace; the African Continent has also been characterized by continuous conflicts, which have further worsened the already damaged image and ailing economies of the respective nations. As you might all know, Africa has 33 of the 48 poorest countries of the world. What is even more disturbing is that the meagre resources accrued from economic activities are on the other hand spent in addressing the effects of conflicts instead of addressing poverty among her people. Effects of such conflicts do not only affect the country of origins, but usually spill over across borders into other countries in form of refugees, insecurity due to infiltration of weapons, borders clashes etc. Despite all these negative aspects Africa is a continent blessed with natural and cultural resources, which if properly utilized could go a long way in alleviating and ultimately eradicating poverty in the entire continent. The responsibility therefore, of achieving peace and sustainable development, rests on the shoulders of African leaders and their citizens with the support of the international community. Tourism is one of the key sectors, which can contribute much towards that goal.

Tourism is a dynamic sector characterized by its multiplier effect and job creation. This sector has proved to have the potential of being the leading sector particularly for the developing countries due to its dynamism and its contribution to the fight against poverty, through creation of sustainable employment. It is also among the fastest growing industries in the world today. According to the World Tourism Organization, in 2002 tourist arrivals worldwide amounted to 715 million. Receipts from tourists, excluding fares and domestic tourism amounted to US \$ 480 billion during the same year. Tourism involves movement of people from one place to the other. Being a hospitality industry, tourism has continued to create new jobs annually. According to WTO, currently this sector employs 200 million people, generates US\$ 3.6 trillion in economic activity and accounts for one in every 12 jobs worldwide. It is an industry that the developing world can have an edge over the developed world where natural attractions exist.

The African continent is blessed with numerous diverse tourist attractions. Due to a long tradition of respect for nature, Africa is home to unsurpassed natural and cultural resources, which could be sustainably developed for tourism. Many African nations have realized the potential role tourism can play in their national economies and have taken various steps to develop and promote it. This has made tourism one of the leading sectors for poverty reduction in Africa. To many African countries, tourism is a major source of foreign exchange, employment and diversification of national economies. It is evident that, if well planned and given the necessary environment, tourism can play a major role in poverty alleviation.

Statistics provided by WTO indicate that in 2002 Africa received 29.1 million international arrivals representing 4.1% of the world total and US \$ 11.8 billion showing a 2.0% growth over 2001. It is however encouraging to note that, according to WTO statistics, out of all international arrivals in Africa in 2001, about 40% or 11 million tourists originated from within the Africa region. This is a good indication that there is an increase of intra Africa travels and therefore more interaction among our people. This could not only foster harmony among the people of Africa, but it can make an immense contribution to the national economies.

There are many countries in the world where domestic tourism contributes highly to national economies. An example of China is illustrative. According to WTO, domestic tourists in China amounted to 744 million in 2000 generating 317.554 billion Yuan, equivalent to US \$ 38.44 billion. International tourists for the same year were 83.44 million with receipts of US \$ 16.224 billion. This is an indication of how potential domestic/regional tourism can be.

Inter-regional tourism can also be more sustainable because it is not so vulnerable to adverse publicity. If we are to promote and encourage movement of our people as well as attract inbound tourists, we seriously have to strive to achieve political stability in the Africa Region. All the figures above indicate how important tourism can be in poverty alleviation. Besides the direct linkage of tourism to economic development, let us not forget that there is a greater linkage between poverty and peace and stability. There is even an obvious linkage between terrorism and poverty. If tourism can play its rightful part, may be many of the problems encountering our societies such as poverty may be history.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Tourism, like any other business cannot co-exist with conflicts. It is rather a catalyst for peace and harmony because it involves interaction between people from all walks of life, with different political, religious, economic and social status. It allows sharing of cultural and traditional values, therefore creating a

sense of respect for each other. Being a hospitality industry, tourism fosters trust among the host communities, tour operators and the tourist who entrusts his/her life to total strangers who might easily become friends by the end of the safari. Through this invaluable contact, tourism can act as a catalyst for peace. Political stability, peace and harmony cannot be brought by a selected few or governments single handedly. Every individual and every community have a role in ensuring peace in the world. Human beings are the cause of conflicts and therefore they are the only ones who can resolve and bring the conflicts to an end. Although Africa has been haunted by civil wars for decades, it is encouraging that peace is now the number one agenda for most countries. We have realized that the best way of resolving conflicts is through sincere and amicable dialogue. Constant peace talks among countries of the Great lakes region and those in West Africa are a few indications of this fact. The vision for the Africa Region is to bring an end to conflicts, underdevelopment and poverty through solidarity for the benefit of the present and future generations. This Second African peace through Tourism Conference is an initiative to further emphasize that humanity is in dire need of peace. Your presence here today is a clear indication of the importance you attach to peace.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

As earlier mentioned, tourism is a labour intensive sector, which creates jobs and income for the highly skilled as well as unskilled. Most importantly for the least developed countries, tourism is the only product we can put a price tag on or at least have an upper hand in negotiation. We are all faced with a challenge of ensuring conducive environment for this lucrative business. It is my understanding that during this conference various papers of peace, sustainable development, financing, youth, education etc. will be presented by professionals and dignitaries from respective sectors. It is my sincere hope that you will come up with resolutions and achievable proposals that can lead to the maintenance of peace in Africa in particular and the world at large. It is also my hope that you will seize this opportunity to interact and share experiences that will lead to paving the way forward for peace, sustainable tourism development and poverty alleviation.

Lastly, let me remind distinguished participants that Tanzania has many re-known world tourist attractions and some of these are in the neighbourhood of Dar es Salaam. Please take time during and after the meeting to enjoy them.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is now my pleasure and privilege to declare The Second Africa Peace Through Tourism Conference Officially Open.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

