

**Statement by**

**HON. AMBASSADOR, DR GERTRUDE MONGELLA (MP),  
PRESIDENT, Pan African Parliament on the Launch of Deliver Now for Women and  
Children Campaign  
22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2008, DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANZANIA**

Your Excellency, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, president of the United Republic of Tanzania,

Your Excellency, Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway,

Honorable Professor Mwakyusa, Minister of Health and Social Welfare,

Dr. Francisco Songane, Director, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health,

Mr. Oscar Fernandez Taranco, UN Resident Coordinator,

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners invited for this occasion

Your Excellencies representatives of UN agencies and Heads of Diplomatic Missions

Distinguished members of The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

Invited Guests

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank the organizers of this meeting for giving me the opportunity to give remarks on this occasion of Launching the Deliver Now Campaign for Women and Children in Tanzania.

I commend the efforts by President Jakaya Kikwete and Prime Minister Stoltenberg to support the international health Partnership for achieving the MDGs 4 and 5 since its launch in September 2007 in New York.

Your excellencies,

The situation of Maternal, Newborn and Child health need to be given special attention. In 2005, Ministers of Health committed their countries to:

- “Recognize that maternal, newborn and child health is inseparable and interdependent”.
- “Reorient national and sub national development plans and budgets to fully achieve the maternal and child health Millennium Development Goals by 2015”
- Ensure the development of One National Plan, One Coordinating mechanism and One monitoring System for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

- And finally “Mobilize and commit resources to finance the plan of action and identify needs for national and external support”.

It is time now to remind all the stakeholders to recommit ourselves to the principles enshrined in the Delhi Declaration, which we have yet to fulfill.

In Tanzania, the current data shows that more than 8,100 women die due to pregnancy-related complications. In other words, this is the equivalent of 23 jumbo jets of 350 people each crashing to the ground or the equivalent of 10 MV Bukobas sinking with 800 pregnant women on board each year. For the newborns, about 45,000 newborns die every year, equivalent to 128 jumbo jets crashing!!!!

I am using these examples, which normally shock nations and demand that flags are flown at half-mast and days allocated for national mourning. But when it comes to women, newborns and children, these are silent tragedies that are accepted as a normal everyday occurrence. It is only left to family and friends to mourn. This is not ACCEPTABLE. We need Actions and the time is now!!

Last week, the Global Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in collaboration with partners and Inter Parliamentary Union organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Countdown to 2015 for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival in Cape Town, the key message was to accelerate progress towards attainment of MDGs 4 and 5.

In order to be able to do that we need to work together in mobilizing the necessary resources to scale up universal access in order to DELIVER FOR WOMEN and CHILDREN

As a Champion (Mpiga Debe) for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Tanzania, I am glad to be part of you to launch this Campaign, let us together Deliver for Women and Children. It can be done, if we all play our Part

I thank you all