

**WELCOME REMARKS BY UNGCNT COORDINATOR  
EMMANUEL NNKO AT THE RING THE BELL FOR GENDER  
EQUALITY EVENT ON 8TH MARCH 2018 at, DAR ES SALAAM  
STOCK EXCHANGE (DSE)**

**You're Excellency, Ms. Sihaba Nkinga** Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children

**Alvaro Rodriguez** - UN Resident Coordinator, **Ms. Hodan Addou**, UN Women Representative **Moremi Marwa** - DSE - CEO **DSE Listed Companies**

**UNGC Signatories (Local and International),**

**Distinguished Guests and dear friends,**

**All protocols observed,**

A very warm good morning to everyone and **Happy International Women's Day!** I am honored to have been given the opportunity to say a few words. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) for accepting hosting this event, for the first time in Tanzania.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to the Hon PS **Ms. Sihaba Nkinga**, **Alvaro Rodrigues**, UN Resident Coordinator, **Ms. Hodan Addou** UN Women Representative, and all Distinguished Guest for coming to this event and being a true partner in making sure that Tanzania is part of

the global celebration of International Women's Day 2018 through Ringing the Bell for Gender Equality.

Today's event is build up to the International Women's Day (IWD) 2018 as we are joining over 50 stock exchange around the world to Ring the Bell, in highlighting the importance of gender equality. This event brings together business leaders, governments and UN officials to promote the Women's Empowerment Principles.

It confirms the importance of gender equality not only as a moral and human rights concern, but as a mainstream business and investment issue. Investors around the world are realizing that the furthering of gender equality is not only the right thing to do, it is also the economically smart thing to do.

## **You're Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen**

**UN Global Compact:** Is The world's largest corporate sustainability initiative for corporate leaders, academic Institutions and NGOs in the world, who are committed to implementing the UN Global Compact's 10 principles and take action to advance societal goals.

Where companies commit themselves to this program, create a greater transparency on their practices relating to **Human rights, labor standards, Environmental impact and integrity (Anti-corruption)** and advancing **Sustainable Development Goals.**

The UN Global Compact unites more than **12,300** organizations globally, of which **9000+** are businesses and **3000+** are Non-business from **165** countries. Businesses and non-businesses are supposed to report on their annual progress relating to corporate sustainable best practice on following areas **Human rights, Labor, environment, anti-corruption and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

What we request from companies/business is for them to **Act Responsibly** by embedding the Ten principles deep into their strategies and operations, to **find opportunities** through taking bold innovation actions to achieve UN initiatives such as **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & Paris agreement** and lastly, we ask them to become our ambassador through Inspiration and advocate to others to join the movement.

We cannot achieve sustainable development without buy-in from business from leading global corporations to small and medium-size enterprises, from investors to entrepreneurs. Also, we cannot achieve sustainability at a corporate or a global level without empowering the women of the world.

In this context, I would like to briefly mention the **Women's Empowerment Principles** as United Nations Global Compact initiative that are underpinned the link between **sustainability** and **gender equality**.

**The Women's Empowerment Principles** are a set of Principles for business offering guidance on how to empower women in the **Workplace, Marketplace** and **Community**. These principles are the result of a collaboration between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Global Compact.

The Principles emphasize the business case for corporate action to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and are informed by real-life business practices and input gathered from across the globe, to ensure that ***“Equality Means Business”***

**We also take this opportunity to invite the** Chief Executive Officers, to issue a Statement of Support of the WEPs. The Statement encourages business leaders to use the seven Principles as guide posts for actions that advance and empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. It also asks companies to communicate their progress through collection of sex-disaggregated data.

All businesses stand to benefit from greater equality for women. We invite all companies present here today to adopt the Women's Empowerment Principles – By joining more than 1,000 other business leaders around the world who have done so.

**Lastly**, I would like to argue for all non-signatories who are here present today to join hands with the UN Global Compact on the movement to **Champion the Principles. To Challenge** your peers to take up the cause. To **Share your successes**.

Helping women obtain decent work is no longer seen only as a moral imperative, but also as a way for investors to achieve returns while supporting national and global development.

**I welcome you once again, thank you for joining us.**

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