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معالي السيد / محمد غريب بلال

نائب رئيس جمهورية تنزانيا الاتحادية

أمام

القمة العربية الأفريقية الثالثة

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. MOHAMMED GHARIB BILAL,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT  
THE THIRD AFRICA – ARAB SUMMIT, THE STATE OF KUWAIT,  
19 NOVEMBER, 2013**

**Your Highness, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the  
State of Kuwait and Co-Chair of the Third Africa – Arab Summit;**

**Your Excellency Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn,  
Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Co-  
Chair of the Third Africa – Arab Summit;**

**Royal Majesties and Highnesses;**

**Excellencies Heads of State and Government;**

**Excellency Secretary General of the Arab League;**

**Excellency Chairperson of the African Union Commission;**

**Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

At the outset, let me express my sincere thanks to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, the Government and people of the State of Kuwait for the warm welcome and efficient preparation of this Summit. Allow me also to convey greetings from H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, who had wished to personally attend this meeting, but could not do so because of other engagements. He wishes you all a very successful meeting.

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies;**

Africa and Arab countries are virtually linked by history, geography and culture. Our shared history and geographical proximity have over the centuries enabled us to interact in many fields, such as trade, religion and culture. Today, about two-thirds of the world's Arab population is in Africa. For Tanzania, the largest population of our citizens in the Diaspora is found in the Arab region. No other

place outside Africa is the Kiswahili language widely spoken than in Arab countries of Oman and Yemen. These factors make formal cooperation between the two regions inevitable. As we are all aware, the Second Africa – Arab Summit convened in Libya, October 2010, came up with major milestones to foster and strengthen cooperation between the two sides. I wish here to specifically mention the adoption the Africa-Arab Strategic Framework and its Joint Plan of Action (JAP) for 2011 – 2016. The Strategy and JAP outline four areas of cooperation between the two sides, namely: political cooperation; economic, trade and financial cooperation; agriculture and food security cooperation; and social cultural cooperation.

**Excellencies;**

It has been three years since the start of implementing the strategy and its JAP, but reports presented today paint a bleak picture on what has been achieved so far. Many agreed projects have not or been partially implemented due to a number of challenges. The Joint Report of Chairperson of the AU Commission and the General Secretariat of the Arab League has identified several challenges that hindered implementation, notably lack of financial resources, ineffective monitoring mechanisms and lack of participation of the private sector. Most of these challenges are within our own means to address and through our cooperation we can resolve them at a recommendable time frame.

**Excellencies;**

We all know that the world is currently facing profound challenges, including the impact of economic crisis, food insecurity, natural disasters, instability and terrorism. These challenges are complex that no one country can tackle alone. Therefore, the partnership between Africa and Arab countries is more important today than some decades ago. By forging cooperation, our two regions will not only address the existing challenges but also will enable the two sides to fully unleash their potentials and thus meet the aspirations of their people.

**I thank you for listening**