

# UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

## Government Statement

During the last eleven months, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has been playing host to peace negotiations in Arusha between the Government of the Republic of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF). Tanzania's involvement as Facilitator was within the framework of regional efforts at finding a peaceful negotiated settlement to the Rwandese conflict.

2. The search for peace is an arduous and challenging task. Since the commencement of the peace process in Arusha in July, 1992, the parties to the conflict were able to negotiate, agree and sign a ceasefire agreement which is happily holding, and protocols on the rule of law, power-sharing, refugees and displaced persons. Having dispensed with intricate matters, the parties to the conflict addressed themselves to even trickier issues: military and security aspects and the equally demanding peace agreement. The outstanding issue of proportions in the command of the national army and the gendarmerie was about to be resolved; so were questions of the timetable for the initial and temporary placement of transitional structures and institutions and procedures for the appointment of a Prime Minister who would be nominated by the relevant party.

3. It was on the basis of the progress made at the negotiating table and the understanding that had clearly emerged that full consultations with both parties were undertaken by the Facilitator with a view to signing a comprehensive peace agreement. The Government of the Republic of Rwanda proposed Thursday, 24 June 1993 and that date was agreed to by all the parties to the conflict.

4. In view of the above, the Government of the United Republic of

Tanzania sent out invitations to Heads of the neighbouring countries of Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Zaire, as well as the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the OAU Secretary General to come and witness the signing ceremony by the Rwanda President and the Chairman of the Rwandese Patriotic Front in the presence of the Facilitator. Indeed, all diplomatic and consular missions and international organizations accredited to Tanzania were notified of this important event and asked to attend the ceremony.

5. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania regrets that the peace agreement was not signed due to circumstances deemed unavoidable by the Government of the Republic of Rwanda. However, Tanzania feels that there is greater need and maximum urgency for a peace agreement to be concluded as soon as possible. Any delays will only encourage the violation of the ceasefire and escalate the conflict with ominous consequences, not only for the people and Government of Rwanda, but also for the region and Africa as a whole.

6. Tanzania wishes to make it abundantly clear that as entrusted Facilitator and good neighbour, this country remains committed to the peace process in Rwanda. We would therefore like to appeal to both parties to the conflict to exercise maximum restraint and continue to cooperate fully to ensure that a comprehensive agreement is reached quickly in the interest of all Rwanda, neighbouring countries and Africa as a whole.

25 June, 1993

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
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Dar-es-Salaam