

UNITED NATIONS



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Closing remarks by

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**To be read by Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro
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**TO THE UN AND AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE FORUM
UN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY AND AFRICA PUBLIC
SERVICE DAY EXHIBITION AND AWARDS**

Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 23 June 2011

Excellencies,
Distinguished Awards Winners,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to address you on the occasion of the closing of the inaugural joint commemoration of the United Nations Public Service Day and United Nations Public Service Awards, in conjunction with the Africa Public Service Day and Awards Ceremony and to convey my most heartfelt congratulations to all award winners.

As you may be aware, in the year 2000 the United Nations embarked on a mission to improve the quality of life for all, with a set of goals related to human needs and basic rights, so that every individual around the world would be able to enjoy: freedom from extreme poverty and hunger; quality education, productive and decent employment, good

health and shelter; the right of women to give birth without risking their lives; and a world in which environmental sustainability is a priority, and women and men live in equality. It was clear that achieving all this would depend to a great extent on good governance, and efficient and responsive public administration.

The United Nations Public Service Awards is one of the major programmes within the United Nations aimed to improve governance and public administration. The programme effectively provides the framework and processes for analysing, evaluating and documenting innovations in governance and public administration across the Member States of the United Nations.

In just under a decade, many initiatives which contribute to accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals have been identified and awarded. For instance, Rwanda's initiative towards providing equity in the educational system and the Transnet-Phelophepa Health Care Train in Johannesburg, South Africa that has improved access to health care for rural residents and combats diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Malaria are only two examples from the African continent. There are many more examples from Africa and other regions of the world as well.

The United Nations Public Service Awards continues to expand with nominations growing by 25 per cent in 2010 and a further 44 per cent this year. In addition, 44 countries have participated on average annually from all regions of the world. This year, however, an outreach endeavour by the UNPSA team resulted in an increase with 55 countries participating. We are also aware that since the launching of the UNPSA

in 2002, other public service awards programmes have been developed at international, regional, and national levels and participation in those programmes is also growing.

In closing, I thank all of you for your dedication to public service. As a public servant myself, I invite you to join me in renewing our commitment to achieving a better life for all. Let us centre this commitment on the needs of our citizens, let us continue to be innovative in ways to deliver public services, and most of all, let us remember that we can achieve a lot more together, than apart.

Excellencies, distinguished award winners, ladies and gentlemen, thank you.